

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND  
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE**



United Nations  
Peacebuilding

**PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT**

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| <b>Country(ies):</b> Liberia   |  |
| <b>Project Title:</b> Enhancing peace and social cohesion through the promotion of equitable access to and use of land for rural women in conflict-prone communities and concession areas  |  |
| <b>Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):</b>   |  |
| <b>PBF project modality:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> IRF<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF  | <b>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund<br><input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund<br><b>Name of Recipient Fund:</b> |
| <b>List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.):</b> UN Women (convening agency), UNDP & WFP, and Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (AEDE)  |  |
| <b>List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO):</b> Liberian Land Authority (LLA), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)/Peacebuilding Office (PBO), National Bureau of Concession (NBC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), Ministry of Education (MOE), Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) |  |
| <b>Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):</b> Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL), National Peace Hut Women of Liberia, Liberia National Rural Women Structure, Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI), Creative Initiative for Development & Relief (CONTOUR), Rediscover Liberia, Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT), VIAMO, and Community Sustainable Development Organization,  |  |
| <b>Expected project commencement date<sup>1</sup>:</b> July 2023<br><b>Project duration in months<sup>2</sup>:</b> 36 months<br><b>Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation:</b> Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh and Nimba Counties.   |  |
| <b>Does the project fall under one or more of the specific PBF priority windows below:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <sup>3</sup><br><input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <sup>4</sup><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project  |  |
| <b>Total proposed PBF project budget (by recipient organization):</b><br>UN Women: \$ 1,300,000<br>UNDP: \$1,000,000<br>WFP: \$ 1,000,000  |  |

<sup>1</sup> Note: actual commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

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

Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (CSO): \$200,000  
**TOTAL: \$3,500,000 (Three Million Five Hundred Thousand)**

*\*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. For payment of second 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 1<sup>st</sup> tranche (60%):**

Recipients:  
 UN WOMEN: \$780,000  
 UNDP: \$600,000  
 WFP: \$600,000  
 AEDE (CSO): \$120,000  
**Total: \$2,100,000**

**PBF 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche\* (40%) :**

UN WOMEN: \$520,000  
 UNDP: \$400,000  
 WFP: \$400,000  
 AEDE (CSO): \$80,000  
**Total: \$1,400,000**

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

This project aims to provide women with an enabling environment, systems, tools, voice, and mechanisms to address the continued marginalization of women in land governance. By doing this, the project will also increase community social cohesion and address specific problems and conflicts in concession areas, considering the "agenda of business and human rights" in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In addition, the project will promote the commitment and accountability of companies of companies to carry out heightened human rights due diligence, as well as the promotion of the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs), which offer guidance to businesses, including concessions on how to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in companies. Furthermore, the project will apply the strategies of educating and capacitating communities and local authorities, strengthening and expanding existing mechanisms for early warning and conflict resolution, foster social cohesion through investments in livelihood opportunities for community members, especially women, young people, and other marginalized groups; and improve engagements between concession companies and local concession communities.

**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):**

In April 2022, the convening agencies held several consultations with the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (through the Liberia Peace Building Office), the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC), the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MoFDP), and Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) as well as women-led civil society organizations and rural women structures and networks including: young women and youth structures such as Rescue Women Liberia (RWL), Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL), National Peace Hut Women of Liberia (NPHWL), Liberia National Rural Women Structure (LNRWS), Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI), Rediscover Liberia (RL), Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT), VIAMO, and Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD), Rights and Rice Foundation (RRF), Community Sustainable Development Organization (CSDO) and Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (AEDE). In addition, consultations were held with concession companies such as Mano Oil Palm in Bomi and Gbarpolu counties, Western Cluster and ArcelorMittal. These consultations provided the opportunity to introduce the funding

opportunity, discuss details of the proposal regarding identifying and agreeing on strategic areas for intervention, conduct stakeholders' analysis and agree in principle on the proposal's contents.

On 30 March 2023, the convening agencies and partners (Government and CSOs) had the opportunity to attend a half-day workshop facilitated by the visiting mission of the PBSO and the PBO Secretariat and discussed the proposal in detail. Guidance and comments provided by the PBSO mission informed the development of the full proposal.

**Project Gender Marker score<sup>5</sup>:** 2

Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment:

US\$2,092,089.48 representing 59.77% 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 <sup>6</sup>:**

The project mainstreams gender throughout all interventions, ensuring that men and women, including young women and men are targeted. As a result, 59.77 percent of the project budget is dedicated to ensuring that gender specific activities are fully funded. Training, capacity building, awareness raising, and advocacy interventions, as well as livelihood opportunities, will specifically target women beneficiaries as a way of ensuring gender sensitivity. This is through advocacy for substantial and meaningful inclusion of women in decision-making processes, in land governance, in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), as well as engagements with concessions. In this regard, all of the project outcomes, outputs and activities are developed to support gender equality and women empowerment. In addition, support to women both as beneficiaries and forms the core of this project.

**Project Risk Marker score<sup>7</sup>:** 2

**Select PBF Focus Areas** which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*)<sup>8</sup>:

(2.3) Conflict prevention/management

**PBF SRF Outcome 3:** Communities have greater and more inclusive, equitable and predictable access to and use of land and land conflict resolution, especially in concession zones and in response to climate change effects.

If applicable, **UNSDCF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes:

**OUTCOME 2:** By 2024, Liberia has sustained, diversified and inclusive economic growth driven by

<sup>5</sup> **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)

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

<sup>7</sup> **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes

**Risk marker 1** = medium risk to achieving outcomes

**Risk marker 2** = high risk to achieving outcomes

<sup>8</sup> **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)

investments in agriculture, food security and job creation and is resilient to climate change and natural disasters.

**OUTCOME 3:** By 2024, Liberia consolidates, sustains peace, and enhances social cohesion, has strengthened formal and informal institutions capable of providing access to inclusive, effective, equitable justice and security services, capable of promoting and protecting the human rights of all.

If applicable, **Sustainable Development Goal** to which the project contributes:

**Goal 2:** Zero Hunger, **Goal 5:** Gender equality, **Goal 10:** Reduced inequalities, **Goal 13:** Climate Actions; **Goal 15:** Life on land, **Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; **Goal 17** Partnerships

**Type of submission:**

☒ **New project**

☐ **Project amendment**

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

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

**Change of project outcome/ scope:** ☐

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

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

**Brief justification for amendment:**

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

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



## PROJECT SIGNATURES

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>9</sup></b></p> <p>Name of Representative: Comfort Laminu</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Country Representative</p> <p>Name of Agency: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women)</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: [Redacted]</p> | <p><b>Representative of National Authorities</b></p> <p>Name of Government Counterpart: Aty. J. Adams Manobah</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Chairman</p> <p>Name of Agency: Liberia Land Authority</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: Aug. 03/23</p>          |
| <p><b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>10</sup></b></p> <p>Name of Representative: Louis Kuukpen</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Country Representative</p> <p>Name of Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: [Redacted]</p>                                   | <p><b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>11</sup></b></p> <p>Name of Representative: Alio [Redacted]</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Representative and Country Director</p> <p>Name of Agency: World Food Program</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: [Redacted]</p> |
| <p><b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>12</sup></b></p> <p>Name of Representative: Samuel W. Thompson</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Executive Director</p> <p>Name of Non-UN Agency: Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (CSE)</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: August 3, 2023</p>             | <p><b>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</b></p> <p>Elizabeth Speha [Redacted]</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: 24 Aug 2023</p>  |
| <p><b>Head of UN Country Team</b></p> <p>Name of Representative: N. Christine Umutoni</p> <p>Signature: [Redacted]</p> <p>Title: Resident Coordinator</p> <p>Date &amp; Seal: [Redacted]</p>  |   |

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

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

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

<sup>12</sup> 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 as they relate to this project.

Since the end of the Liberian civil war in 2003, the country has made significant strides in ensuring a peaceful transition, from conflict to development phase. Despite the noteworthy achievements on democratic governance, relative economic growth, and improvement in social infrastructure, the country still faces continued peacebuilding challenges characterized by unresolved grievances, poverty, high cost of living, and escalating youth unemployment rate<sup>13</sup>.

The Land Governance and Inter-generational Conflicts Survey of 2020 conducted by the Liberia Peacebuilding Office revealed that land/property disputes remain one of the most prominent threats to national peace and stability. The survey further identified land/property disputes as the most predominant drivers of conflict in all 15 counties of Liberia. Addressing the prevalence and the effects of land disputes requires bold and concerted effort to prevent escalation and ensure durable resolution. These disputes have largely centered around boundary claims, rightful ownership of land, inter-tribal and communal rivalries, and family in-fighting arising from either land grabbing,<sup>14</sup> document falsification or associated issues.

According to the Liberia Gender Equality Profile, Liberia ranks 41 globally on economic opportunity and participation for women in 2018, scoring 0.71. While this is a notable increase from 0.65 in 2015, it has not translated into tangible economic gains and privileges for women in Liberia. A major causal factor is the lack of access to land and inheritance rights, and women's limited knowledge and capacity to translate the land's provisions into economic gains. Liberia's women still face pronounced discrimination in land and inheritance rights based both on gender and poverty. Liberian women are still in the lowest wealth quintile, and more than half of Liberia's women live in rural areas, where patriarchal traditions and customary law pervasively govern in practice. As part of customary marriage tradition in most of Liberia, a husband must pay a "bride price" to the family of his bride. In some areas, for example, this has been fixed at US\$48 or the equivalent value of two cows. This tradition lends to the perception among many that women are property within a marriage and, as such, cannot have rights to land. As people in rural communities explain, "Property cannot own property." Biased gender norms, widespread lack of knowledge about women's land rights in Liberia, and gendered barriers to accessing information and services mean that women are often left out of land decisions, and therefore left out of land-related dispute resolutions and cannot exercise or defend their land rights. Consequently, women are deprived of an essential means of agricultural production, and this affects their opportunity to develop livelihood opportunities and gain autonomy.

Although the 2018 Lands Rights Act (LRA) addresses some of these challenges, the dissemination of the law is weak and most women in rural communities are unaware of the existing law, therefore they are still being marginalized in land-related matters. While this affects all ages of women, the most affected are the young women who face the same gender-based discrimination as the older women and are also left out of community decision-making and are not considered by most interventions in this area. The general level of land related conflict and gender-based discrimination have both been compounded by granting concession contracts in rural Liberia without proper consultations and due diligence. This has resulted in communities being uprooted from their lands without compensation, with dire consequences on their livelihood, which again mostly affect women and young people's well-being and rights. Although the loss of lands and source of income to concession expansion affected both women and men, women have also suffered increased sexual and gender-based violence as well as vulnerability. In some instances, it has forced young women to provide commercial sex for survival while the pressure of sourcing alternative means of livelihood increased on women. During this time, family members spend more time in close contact and household stress intensifies. In these cases, men become very aggressive to their wives and tend to blame them for the situation usually resulting to domestic violence.

<sup>13</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.UEM.TOTL.MA.NE.ZS?locations=LR>

<sup>14</sup> Individual Land Ownership versus Collective Land Ownership: current practices, opportunities, challenges and options, SDI 2017



Implementation of the previous PBF project on land governance has shown that involvement of women, including young women, in land conflict dispute resolution processes decreases the possibility of land conflicts escalation into full-blown violence. Equally so, their involvement in settling land disputes ensures that women's rights are respected as well as increasing their confidence in the process and in the state. Furthermore, strengthening women's land and resource rights can have a positive impact on their bargaining power and decision-making, particularly around important household-level decisions such as expenditures for children's health and education and intergenerational transfers, including inheritance.

Access to productive land represents a major source of livelihoods for rural communities, including women and young people of Liberia, yet access to and use of land continues to be marred by unpredictability and insecurity issues, including low understanding and application of the 2018 Land Rights Act (LRA), communal and traditional use of land for agriculture which often lacks formal boundaries, low land productivity due to lack of knowledge on correct farming methods along with the adverse effects of climate change. These factors, together with the allocation of large areas of arable land by the government in the form of concessions to the private sector and the use of said land by private companies without proper consultation and compensation for affected communities, have contributed to land conflicts. The absence of boundary demarcation or harmonization allows for high incidences of uncertainty, while the lack of public cadastral records over traditional boundaries and agreements over demarcation further contribute to conflict.

Following the end to the civil war in Liberia which to a large extent was financed by exploitation of natural resources and the elections of a new government in 2005, Liberia had identified the commercial exploitation of natural resources in a transparent, fair and accountable manner as critical to rebuilding its economy and stimulating employment opportunities for its citizens, in particular the youth. In 2008, the government initiated a National Poverty Reduction Strategy, which focused on increasing foreign direct investment in order to address critical public needs, including funding shortages, unemployment, and lack of public infrastructure.<sup>15</sup> Consequently, Liberia has signed natural resource concessions agreements with many foreign investors that accounted for a significant portion of Liberia's substantial foreign direct investment flows, which totaled U.S. \$500 million in 2022.<sup>16</sup> However, concessions have not performed as expected, including due to lack of communication with communities as well as poor management and oversight and attempted forceful eviction of communities. Affected communities claim lack of benefits and loss of livelihoods based on the allocation of their land. In addition, there is a serious lack of consultations with communities in and around the concession areas - by the government and the companies - both of whom have the legal and moral responsibility to engage with these communities. Very often the affected communities are undermined from having meaningful participation in stipulating terms of their benefits, given that accessible, efficient, or appropriate channels and processes to prevent or address social conflict non-violently are often lacking. Additionally, communities often claim that concessionaires do not fulfill their full commitments made to the Government and are not accountable to communities.<sup>17</sup>

Liberia has vast natural resources and most of its inhabitants rely on agriculture as a source of income. However, the country's vast agricultural and mining endowments have been variously controlled by the state and international investors. These natural resources, which are the sources of hope for inclusive economic growth, livelihood, and development for ordinary citizens, have not been properly managed and continue to pose a threat to sustainable peace especially in concessions communities. Concession agreements in Liberia are largely negotiated at central level without the involvement of the communities or customary landowners who should benefit from these investments. The Liberian Government Conflict Mapping exercise of 2016 found that land and property disputes were the most predominant of the three conflict drivers in Liberia<sup>18</sup>. The study also identified the triggering factors as being driven by citizens' grievances and deep civil resentment and marginalization. Communities and individual citizens do not have any role to play in the negotiation and granting of access to concessionaires or contracting, nor with regards to adherence to/enforcement of these

<sup>15</sup> Poverty Reduction Strategy, *supra* note 8

<sup>16</sup> World Investment Report 2022, Country Fact Sheet: Liberia, U.N. CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (2016), [http://unctad.org/sections/dite\\_dir/docs/wir2016/wir16\\_fs\\_lr\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/sections/dite_dir/docs/wir2016/wir16_fs_lr_en.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> Governance of Agricultural Concessions in Liberia: Analysis and Discussion of possible reforms, Allard K. Lowenstein; March 2017

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.accord.org.za/> (Preliminary reflections on the 2016 Liberian National Conflict.)



agreements post signature. As a result of this, it has become increasingly a conflict trigger between affected communities and the concessionaires on the one hand as well as state actors. Communities are only informed by the state and representatives of the concessionaires about their responsibilities for human rights due diligence when the agreement has been signed.

Most of the concession contracts are negotiated in Monrovia and given for very long periods (between 25-99 years) with little or no consultations, and neither are the agreements shared with local communities<sup>18</sup>. It is worth mentioning that Liberia has a poor history of concession agreements thus leading to distrust and skepticism amongst the population. In addition, activities undertaken by concession companies, such as the production of palm oil, rubber, extraction of gold, diamonds and iron ore, have severely impacted the environment, further resulting in tensions that are exacerbated by instances where evictions occur without compensation resulting in a loss of livelihoods and of access to natural resources such as water and energy, as well as to roads and cultural sites (such as shrines)<sup>19</sup>. Activities including deforestation, water and soil pollution, land degradation, and excess carbon emissions have adversely impacted the ecosystems and contributed to climate change. These have further exacerbated a sentiment of mistrust and dissatisfaction in the affected communities as they do not only undermine livelihoods in the surrounding areas but also contribute to the tearing-down of societal interconnectedness (i.e. between unemployed youth and community leaders), and the increase of criminality<sup>20</sup>. Regarding resolving land tensions around concessions, the 2018 Land Rights Act did not retroactively apply to the people who lived in areas that were already set aside for concessions before its enactment. This is significant because, by 2019, about a quarter of Liberia's land area was allocated to rubber, oil palm, and logging concessions to foreign investors (O'Mahoney, 2019). Furthermore, the giving of unnecessary tax breaks as an incentive to attract concession companies during the early post-war era, which even continues to date, has fueled distrust of the population in the governments' ability to negotiate on their behalf.

Although the Government adopted a number of legal and policy reforms for the protection of human rights, including labor rights, and the environment, which apply in the context of businesses operating in concession areas, most of the exploitation of natural resources and agricultural land have not ensured inclusive and sustainable development and respect for human rights in the communities impacted by businesses operating in concession areas. During consultations with communities in Bomi, Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount counties held in April 2023, it was revealed that there have not been consultations about the projects operating on their land, nor clear grievance mechanisms to enable them to raise their concerns. Moreover, communities spoke of repression, police brutality, and arbitrary detention in the context of peaceful protests by community members and human rights defenders. For example, in relation to the Arcelor Mittal concession in Nimba county in 2018 and more recently in relation to the Mano Palm Oil Industries concession in Bomi county in 2022. Freedom of assembly and association and freedom of expression are protected by a number of laws. However, communities alleged targeting and intimidation of labor union leaders and threats to workers who protest against bad labor conditions or lead strikes. Due to past experiences, community members reported fearing exercising their right to peacefully assemble or to put forward their grievances. In fact, heavily armed police officers are visibly deployed in concession areas with the companies underwriting the bills. While the deployment of heavily armed police officers in concession areas may seem to have reduced peaceful protests by affected communities, this measure has not improved the general co-existence between concession-affected communities and concessions. On the other hand, concession companies have raised concerns that despite the employment opportunities they are providing, their investments of huge amounts of money yield no profits due to constant conflicts with communities over land which often stall their expansion. Some of the issues identified by the companies are limited oversight by the Government, inadequate provision of information to communities on their operations, and lack of disclosure of information on payments made by concession companies to host counties and communities<sup>21</sup>. Furthermore, concession companies have a responsibility under the UNGPs to conduct heightened human rights due diligence in conflict-affected areas, which requires them to assess and address any potential or actual negative impacts they might have on a conflict and on the human rights of affected communities. It should be noted that the European Union is developing a legislative instrument (the Corporate

[8] Copies of many of Liberia's concession contracts are available at <http://www.openlandcontracts.org/countries/lr>.

19 Women's land rights in Liberia in law, practice and future reforms, LGSA women's land rights study, USAID, March 2018

20 Ibid.

21 Interview with Concession Companies in October 2019



Sustainability Due Diligence Directive) that would - at the time of writing – enshrine the obligation of sizeable European companies and those doing business in the EU market to carry out heightened human rights due diligence in their supply chains.

The National Bureau of Concession (NBC) was established in 2010 and given the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating compliance with concession agreements in collaboration with the concession-granting entities. In addition, the NBC is to provide technical assistance to ministries, agencies and commissions responsible for planning, bidding, negotiating and administering concession agreements. However, the NBC has been accused by some CSOs and concession-affected communities of not sufficiently effectively performing this statutory responsibility due to lack of capacity and even corruption. They also see this ineffective monitoring of compliance with concession agreements as a major reason for non-performing concession contracts. This project will (i) support the empowerment of women in land governance both as an intervention considering their continued marginalization and also as a strategy to increase social cohesion in communities, and (ii) address specific problems and conflicts in concessions areas taking into consideration the “agenda of business and human rights” in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), and particularly the responsibility of companies under the UNGPs to carry out heightened human rights due diligence, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines on Multi-national Corporations, as well as the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) which offers guidance to businesses including concessions on how to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the workplace, marketplace, and community.

It should be noted that the just completed project (May 2023) “*Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through strengthening land governance and dispute resolution mechanism*” funded by PBF and implemented by UN Women, UNDP, and WFP, and currently under independent evaluation, has facilitated the creation of a more favorable environment to start tackling land conflict more systematically while being anchored in the Government’s decentralization policy. The project targeted Maryland, Sinoe, Nimba, and Grand Cape Mount Counties and, through some activities, also had a national reach. In particular, it has led to increased capacities of national and decentralized authorities on land governance, has set up the path to a more equitable access to land around concessions, as well as facilitating dispute resolution mechanisms for vulnerable groups, especially women. Yet given the scale of the need in this area and the complexity of working around and with concession companies, the UN and the Government agreed that this area necessitates continued UN and PBF support during the PBF Strategic Result Framework period of 2022-2027, with a strengthened focus on the specific tensions in concession zones. As such, the proposed next project of PBF support in this area builds on the progress to date and specifically recognizes that:

(1) Dedicated support is needed to ensure **women are further empowered in land governance, ownership and dispute resolution** considering their continued marginalization due to gender inequality. This requires enhancing their capacities to meaningfully contribute to processes and decisions regarding land ownership and use. In Liberia, customary land is owned by a community or managed in accordance with customary practices and norms, such as agricultural land, wetlands, communal forests, or fallow lands<sup>22</sup>. Consequently, customary land ownership did not require title deeds before the Liberia Land Right Act of 2018 came into force. Communities hold ownership to these lands because they occupied such land over a period from generation to generation. Ownership of customary land was based on tribal ethnicity and lineage systems that dominate each region<sup>23</sup>. Women access to land through customary land ownership is mostly the same means as men: inheritance, gifts, natal families, borrowing etc. However, most women do not enjoyed ownership over land because they relocate after marriage. Although, in rare cases, they can acquire ownership through marriage, this puts them at a disadvantage because once they relocate from their families after marriage, they tend to lose the right to ownership to their family’s land<sup>24</sup>. As a result, men will normally exercise that right over lands. Building on the

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<sup>22</sup> Liberia - Context and Land Governance

<https://landportal.org/book/narratives/2021/liberia#:~:text=Freehold%20tenure%2C%20known%20as%20individual,Private%20Land%2C%20and%20Customary%20Land>

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.land-links.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/USAID\\_Land\\_Tenure\\_Liberia\\_LPIS\\_Synthesis\\_Report.pdf](https://www.land-links.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/USAID_Land_Tenure_Liberia_LPIS_Synthesis_Report.pdf) ( 2012)

<sup>24</sup> Same as above.



previous PBF project “Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms”, this project will support communities to acquire customary land title deeds through customary land formalization processes. This will reduce conflict and grant ownership to community members. Customary land ownership provides an opportunity for collective land ownership which is primarily accessed through group claims held by families, quarters, or towns. According to the LRA, customary land ownership provides for all members of the society including women, youth and other marginalized groups to benefit equally from the use of the land. With the establishment and full involvement of women in leadership positions of various community land management committees, women are guaranteed full participation and equal ownership to customary lands as stated by the LRA. In this case, it becomes easier for women to own and use community lands both collectively or individually unlike the case where they are required to pay huge sums of money to acquire private lands. Therefore, the project will advocate for women participation in decision-making processes regarding customary land ownership, to influence what happens to the land and the equitable access to benefits accrued from the land. Men will be targeted to change social norms and stereotypes about women land ownership and to enable them to understand women right to access land as men. Communities will be in the position to negotiate with concessionaires based on their title deeds, thereby putting them in a good position to negotiate directly and get the required benefits. The legal status gained by the community will enable them to seek professional legal services to ensure that their interests are better served. This service could be paid for from the funds generated from the contract signing fees that concession companies usually pay upon signing contracts.

(2) Support is also needed to ensure that prospective or existing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) will be **accessible to and used by the most underprivileged populations, especially rural women**. This will be done by addressing the predominant unfavorable gender norms in communities. In Liberia, most existing customary and semi-formal ADRs are gender biased and do not respond to the needs of women, and youth. In many rural communities where governance is still based strictly on traditional norms, women do not participate in ADR. The ADR process and its related costs which include fines, and fees for verification of claims need to be affordable. In addition, many women are unaware of their rights provided for in the Land Rights Act and lack agency to support advocacy and community sensitization efforts and to facilitate ongoing liaison with the land authorities regularly.

(3) Support to government, civil society and local communities, and concession companies’ needs to go hand in hand with providing **opportunities for improved land-related livelihoods and resilience at the community level, through a climate-smart lens**. In April 2021, a livelihood assessment was conducted in the framework of the recently completed PBF project, to assess the effect of concession operations on youth, women, and men. The assessment highlighted how communities around concession areas have limited access to productive farmland due to concession operations, thereby creating food insecurity and vulnerability among the affected populations. People in rural areas depend on natural resources (land, forest, etc.) for survival. In rural areas, youth and women are mostly the ones involved with labor and production, with women carrying out additional domestic functions for the family but with limited participation in decision-making as well as in political processes. Women play a major role in livelihood and agriculture, with the latter forming an integral part of livelihood activities in most concession-affected communities. During the livelihood assessment, all the affected communities mentioned that the use of land (through agricultural activities including hunting and for medicines) has been a major source of their livelihood. Thus, with agricultural concession companies occupying the upland (high ground) with limited or no benefits to the affected communities, the alternative way is to develop lowland (swamps) ecosystem for agricultural production through climate smart agricultural practices, and capacity building for livelihood sources, while also looking for opportunities to widen the concession-related socio-economic benefits to the nearby communities.

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**<sup>25</sup>, how it ensures **national ownership**.

This project contributes to the implementation of the UNSDCF 2020-2024 for Liberia, notably Outcomes 2.3 and 4. Particularly, Output 2.2 aims that “by 2024, national and subnational capacity to deliver sustainable natural resource management and climate-aware initiatives is strengthened”. The proposed initiative is aligned with National and International legal and policy frameworks and specifically, with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) which were ratified by Liberia in 1984 and 2004 respectively. The proposed initiative will also contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically 5, 10 and 16. It also aligns with the PBF Strategic Framework outcome 3: “Communities have greater and more inclusive, equitable and predictable access to and use of land and land conflict resolution, especially in concession zones and in response to climate change effects”.

At national level, this project supports the implementation of the overall government’s strategic plan the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) Pillar 3: Sustaining Peace. PAPD also calls for improving socio-economic human rights by passing and implementing the Land Rights Act to improve land tenure security; developing a regulatory framework for the actualization of the Liberia Land Authority Act; securing access to land by harmonizing customary and statutory land tenure systems; and strengthening community land administration and governance framework (ensuring the inclusion of youth, women, and marginalized community members).

Likewise, it is aligned with the 2018 National Gender Policy which clearly calls for supporting women, land tenure and property rights including advocating for and promoting women’s access to and control over land/land-based resources, and other forms of property and assets. In addition, there is alignment with the Liberian National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (2019-2023), which emphasizes the importance of land, inheritance and property rights for women. Moreover, the proposed intervention has been designed to support the Government of Liberia to implement the LRA and LGA including the Legal Aid Policy (2019) and the Land Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Policy.

- 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.

The proposed initiative builds upon the results of past land and concession projects as follows:

| Past and ongoing Projects  | Description  |
|--|--|
| Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.<br><br>UN Women, UNDP and WFP funded by PBF (2019-2023) | This project supported the Government of Liberia to implement the LRA and LGA by strengthening existing semi-formal and informal land dispute resolution mechanisms and strengthening the capacity of the LLA to commence the formalization of customary land in five counties. In addition, the project enhanced the coordination among relevant actors and streamlined existing mechanisms and processes to reduce land-related conflicts.                         |
| Securing land rights for women and rural communities in South-eastern Liberia.<br><br>ActionAid, ForumCiv, DEN-L (2021-2024) funded by the European Union (EU)       | The project aims to increase access to land rights for women and young people; strengthen community engagement in decision-making on land use; and equip CSOs to provide sustainable advocacy for land sector reforms in Liberia. This is done through strengthening Civil Society and Community Based Organizations, women and youth networks, community leaders, and members of community structures such as CLDMCs and increase accountability from duty bearers. |

<sup>25</sup> Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.



|  |  |
|--|--|
| Strengthening the Agency of young women in peacebuilding processes and land tenure in Liberia.<br><br>ActionAid (2022-2023) PBF funded | This project seeks to enhance the leadership and capacity of young women organizations and networks in four counties (Bong, Margibi, Gbarpolu and Sinoe) to organize and lead community actions to constructively assert claims for their land rights and inclusive land and natural resource governance in order to prevent conflict and ensure peace is maintained in Liberia. |
| Land Rights for Sustainable Development II Project<br><br>Landesa – Funded by USAID (2022 – 2023)                                      | The project is supporting community land formalization, offering ongoing technical assistance for law and policy reform, strengthening government and community implementation capacity, fostering legal awareness in civil society using radio and Amplio Talking Books, and building an evidence base to disseminate lessons to broader stakeholders.                          |
| Land Rights for Sustainable Development Project<br><br>Landesa with funding from USAID (January 2018 – December 2020).                 | The project supported strengthening the government's institutional, policy, legal and regulatory framework for gender equitable land governance.   |

This project complements ongoing initiatives including those funded by the World Bank, USAID, Sweden, and the EU in support of the implementation of the LRA and capacity strengthening of the LLA. The project will be implemented in coordination and in collaboration with development partners that have widely supported the development of the land sector. The project will also support the Land Donor Working Group to avoid duplications and strengthen synergies in different target communities/counties and/or sequencing of interventions among partners. This proposal was consulted with the World Bank, Sweden, and USAID in the context of many uncertainties at this stage of the full implementation of the LRA and agreed with LLA.

This project is unique in the sense that it aims to scale up results from the local to the national level and translate lessons learned in a way that assists policy formulation, while providing community solutions and empowering women. In addition, this will be the first project to support the use of technology to monitor, report and address triggers of land conflicts in real-time by establishing mobile phone hotlines. This project is also unique because it facilitates concession companies' involvement in finding solutions to conflict issues by actively engaging communities on livelihood opportunities and serving as a market for the purchase of agricultural commodities from communities. This is a complex and sensitive endeavour where the United Nations has a particular added value. At the same time the project will take into account lessons from previous interventions.

### *Lessons learned from previous support and how the planned interventions will build on them:*

While the final evaluation report of the “Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms” is still in process, periodic monitoring activities of the project already provided multiple lessons that the proposed intervention will consider, including:

- Creating an enabling environment or a platform to address potential conflicts and mitigate tensions is key, and inclusive gender-sensitive Multi-stakeholders Platforms (MSPs) have been demonstrated to be an effective mechanism to prevent and resolve conflicts between concessions and communities. Enhancing the capacity of the platforms' leadership and developing a financing plan to ensure their sustainability after the project's interventions is key to ensure their effective functioning.
- Community-based participatory planning in general is a way forward for inclusion of youth and women in planning, making decisions, and settling local issues including land disputes<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> Feedback from youth and women benefiting from the ongoing joint ILO/FAO/WFP project related to “Sustaining Peace and Improving Social Cohesion Through the Promotion of Rural Employment Opportunities for Youth in Conflict-Prone Areas

- Transparency and information sharing by the government, concession companies and communities on concession agreements including community benefits help to reduce tensions on land related disputes and conflicts among stakeholders, including the Government, concession companies and affected communities.
- Environmental mismanagement and the exploitation of natural resources that leads to environmental pollution not only increases the severity and duration of conflict but also makes its resolution much more difficult. Cooperation over the management of natural resources and the environment provides new opportunities for peacebuilding that should also be pursued.
- To ensure that environmental and natural resource issues are successfully integrated across a range of peacebuilding activities, it is critical that they are not treated in isolation, but instead as an integral part of the analyses and assessments that guide peacebuilding interventions. Indeed, it is only through a cross-cutting approach that these issues can be tackled effectively as part of peacebuilding measures to address the factors that may trigger a relapse of violence or impede the peace consolidation process.
- The establishment of a platform for regular dialogues between concession companies and affected communities reduces tension and ensures common understanding of concession operations.
- Recognizing and enhancing the roles of community-led initiatives such as Peace Huts in peacebuilding, by providing technical assistance, is a fruitful and strategic approach to addressing gender inequalities and sustaining peace<sup>27</sup>.
- Investing in enhancing the skills, competencies and organizational capacities of rural women to participate in socio-economic activities is an effective strategy to enhance their decision-making roles (e.g. community management of land and other natural resources, household finance, etc.), and to earn increased respect within and outside their households<sup>28</sup>.
- Strengthening knowledge of communities on women's rights and gender principles helps rural women to gain self-confidence and respect at all levels.
- The financial independence gained through Savings and Loan Associations increased women's participation in decision-making processes at the household and community levels<sup>29</sup>.
- Adjustment of training curriculum and teaching methodologies is necessary in order to ensure that illiterate women and girls also receive and understand the relevant information on their rights and obligations<sup>30</sup>.
- Early engagement of concession companies in the design and implementation of concession-related projects reduces misconception of the project and increases concession companies involvement and willingness to pay attention to communities concerns.
- Involvement of male traditional and community leaders in project design and implementation changes negative cultural perceptions about women's participation and makes them willing to share power with women.

In addition, the evaluation for the just-ended "Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms" project is ongoing and therefore, the findings and recommendations of the evaluation will be used at the inception phase to fine-tune and adjust the work plan and methodologies as necessary. The evaluation findings will also inform the baselines of the results outlined in this project and adjust the targets. It will deepen the approach and engagement with stakeholders of this project.

## **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 main focus of this intervention will be on i) the empowerment of women in land governance both as a means of addressing their continued marginalization and also as a strategy to increase social cohesion in

<sup>27</sup> Evaluation report, Inclusive Security Joint Project, UN, 2019

<sup>28</sup> Evaluation Report, Women's Economic Empowerment: Building Peace, Promoting Prosperity, UN Women

<sup>29</sup> *idem*

<sup>30</sup> Evaluation report, "Community-based Conflict Management: Women as Peace Makers and Nation Builders" Project, UN Women.



communities and ii) addressing specific problems and conflicts in concessions areas, taking into consideration the “agenda of business and human rights” and the urgent socio-economic needs of these communities. This will be done in line with the UNGPs, and particularly the responsibility of companies to carry out heightened human rights due diligence, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as well as with the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) which offers guidance to businesses including concessions on how to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community. The project will apply the strategies of educating and capacitating communities and local authorities; strengthening and expanding existing mechanisms for early warning and conflict resolution; fostering social cohesion through investments in livelihood opportunities for community members, especially women, young people, and other marginalized groups; and strengthening engagements between concession companies and local concession communities.

### **Project implementation strategy**

This project will be implemented at national level and at county level with the support from implementing partners (CSOs and Government Institutions) with the capacity to mobilize the most marginalized including rural women, people with disabilities and others. Some other strategies for the implementation of this project include:

**Provision of Technical support** to government institutions to strengthen gender-responsive early warning and response mechanisms with focus on land disputes. This will involve placement of dedicated experts to coach and mentor relevant staff within targeted institutions to maximize learning-by doing while making available specific expertise. For example, in gender-responsive early warning systems in the development of land related indicators and development of a conflict monitoring system.

**Ensure strategic and informed advocacy and communication**, which will be fostered based on previous experiences. Advocacy efforts will include the development and roll-out of communication campaigns on behavior change. UN Women will provide financial assistance to women’s organizations to develop joint communications and advocacy initiatives to ensure roll-out of the behavior change strategy in selected counties.

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

**IF** women are empowered and provided the space to fully participate in land governance structures and processes, especially in the high-conflict concessions zones; **IF** gender-sensitive semi-formal land dispute resolution bodies are strengthened to resolve disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution methods; **IF** Land Governance structures in targeted counties have the capacity, procedures and systems in place to formalize customary land in a way that reflects rights and needs of all community members, especially women; **IF** customary communities are provided titles that legally guarantees their ownership to their customary land; **IF** concession affected communities, including women, have the capacity to participate and contribute meaningfully to decision-making in the licensing and awarding as well as reviews of concession contracts; **IF** targeted women and youth, including cooperatives, have improved livelihood opportunities through climate-smart agriculture activities while also leveraging the economic potential of the concessions; **IF** LLA/EPA/NBC/SPRC are strengthened to effectively prevent conflicts driven by the depletion of livelihood opportunities and environmental hazards in concession zones; **IF** workers’ unions and networks and human rights advocates, especially women, in concession areas have strengthened capacity to negotiate and secure improved working conditions and equal employment opportunities for females and concession companies adopt and apply global principles for promoting gender equality and human rights in the workplace;

**THEN** Land management will be more effective and inclusive, and land and concession-related disputes will be better prevented and managed in targeted counties.



**BECAUSE** land disputes will be prevented, minimized and or addressed in an inclusive and comprehensive manner and concession companies will provide greater socio-economic benefits to affected communities, while communities will feel that they have a voice on land related matters. And because women will be provided with means to drive positive change in their communities:

The Theory of Change is based on the following assumptions:

- Renewed Government commitment to implement the LRA, LGA and the ADR policy at national and sub-national levels.
- The Government is willing to mainstream gender in their policies, rules, and procedures.
- Concessionaries are willing to deliver their commitments and to adopt principles and standards for the empowerment of women in the workplace and the promotion of human rights.
- Targeted communities are willing to change their attitudes towards women, youth and vulnerable group's rights to land.
- Stakeholders (Government, private sector, CSOs, Development partners) are able/willing to coordinate to maximize the impact of their work.

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

***Outcome 1: Authorities and communities at national and local levels manage land allocation, registration and concession licensing processes that support community participation and transparency and that uphold the rights of women.***

The first outcome will build on the achievements of the first phase and further enhance the capacity of state institutions at national and decentralized levels to establish/ revitalize comprehensive and more inclusive, transparent and gender-sensitive land governance and institutional structures that will lead to statutory and customary land governance issues in a way that will better respond to the needs of women, people with disabilities and youth. It will strengthen the capacity and inclusivity of County Land Offices, County Land Management and Development Committees (CLMDCs) and further link them up with the existing land dispute-related structures as well as the new structures created through the passage of LRA. In addition, this project will also support the formalization of customary land as a measure to help prevent disputes relating to customary land ownership and use. The project will introduce a women's land rights platform within the Women Peace Huts to facilitate advocacy on land rights for women, facilitate education on the LRA, access to justice, and foster cooperation with the land authorities. Moreover, this outcome will support the empowerment of women and ensure their active participation in land governance structures not only as members but also in leadership positions to better position them as key influencers for decision-making. Finally, and crucially, this outcome will work to have greater transparency and inclusivity around concession agreements, including in their negotiation and reviews.

***Output 1.1: concession-affected communities, especially women, have the capacity to participate and contribute meaningfully to decision-making in the licensing and awarding of concession contracts***

This output seeks to reinforce the capacities and ownership at the decentralized level. It will enhance the capacities of concession-affected communities especially women to advocate for their concerns to be considered when concession agreements are negotiated or re-negotiated. It will empower communities to also monitor the performance of concessions and their social responsibility obligations and make recommendations on how to improve the concession granting processes in a way that will be gender-responsive and all inclusive.

***Output 1.2: gender-sensitive semi-formal land dispute resolution bodies (County Peace Committees, Community Land Development and Management Committees, peace huts, multi-stakeholder platforms etc) are strengthened to resolve disputes through the ADR, in a sustainable gender and youth-responsive manner.***

This output will support the empowerment of women and youth and ensure their active participation in land governance and dispute resolution structures not only as members but also in leadership positions to better position them as key influencers for decision-making. It will strengthen the capacity of existing semi-formal

and informal land dispute mechanisms to facilitate resolution of land disputes in a more transparent and inclusive manner.

*Output 1.3: LLA, NBC and PBO have the capacity and procedures to undertake boundary harmonization and formalization of customary land at community level thereby strengthening community land ownership*

This output responds to the limited capacity of the Government to prevent land-related conflicts and aims at strengthening the effectiveness, transparency and inclusiveness of land administrative structures at national and county levels. In support of the Government's implementation of LRA and LGA, the output envisions strengthening the capacity of County Land Offices and linking them up with the existing government structures at county level, and in targeted counties in order to foster collaboration with local government. It will also support the formalization of customary land in Bomi, Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu counties as a measure to prevent disputes and ensure land rights for customary owners and users. This will include support to County Land Offices and the creation of County Land Boards as well as the Community Land Development and Management Committees in targeted counties.

*Output 1.4: LLA has enhanced capacity to fully implement its land communication strategy as per the implementation plan including decentralization of existing land information system*

Under this output, the project will increase communities' awareness of the LRA through the dissemination of simplified copies of the LRA as well as coordinated messages. It will ensure that land messages are produced in simple Liberian English and the various vernaculars of the targeted counties

*Outcome 2: Concession affected communities and concession companies benefit from improved relationship and peaceful co-existence through jointly addressing problems and conflicts in concessions areas.*

This second outcome aims at strengthening the relationship between concession-affected communities and concession companies in a way that helps to reduce conflicts and supports peaceful co-existence. It will seek to address the major conflict issues such as the loss of livelihood opportunities for concession-affected communities through enhancing climate adaption and resilience-building of communities by investing in cooperatives as a way of fostering social cohesion in communities. It will enhance concession-communities relationship by bringing onboard concession companies in the provision of livelihood opportunities and encourage them to purchase agricultural commodities from communities. The project will strengthen regular engagements between the concessions and communities through the Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) whose membership shall also include representatives of the companies. It will strengthen the voices of human rights advocates as well as female workers' unions and networks in an attempt to ensure equal benefits for both males and females. As part of this outcome, the project will engage the private sector, especially concession companies themselves, to ensure improved coordination between concession communities and those companies to strengthen social cohesion. Through this outcome, the project will contribute to reducing conflicts through risk-informed and integrated programmes that help build more resilient households and communities across rural and urban contexts in concession areas in the four project counties to have improved and sustainable livelihoods. By layering climate risk management interventions and climate change adaptation programming, the project will support food-insecure populations, especially women whose livelihood has been lost as a result of concession activities, in their efforts to adapt and improve their lives and livelihoods, build self-reliance to better withstand and more quickly recover from recurring shocks. Additionally, through this outcome, the project will assist about 4,000 people to develop more resilient livelihoods in the face of risks and shocks by 2026. The project will also encourage concession companies and affected communities to sign MOUs that will guide the concessions and communities' engagements. These MOUs will provide the opportunity for concessions and communities to define community-based activities to be supported jointly by the communities and the concessions, whereby the communities' support will be in the form of labor and local materials while the concessions will provide resources to procure other needed materials. These MOUs and the activities to be jointly implemented will serve as connectors to improve the relationship and trust between the communities and the concessions.

*Output 2.1: targeted women and youth, including their cooperatives, have sustained livelihood opportunities provided in collaboration with concession companies through climate-smart agriculture activities.*

This output aims at supporting communities, especially women and youth, to restore their lost livelihood as a result of concession operations. This is intended to reduce concession-communities tensions, provide economic opportunities and foster good relationships between concessions and communities by bringing onboard concession companies in the provision of livelihood opportunities and encourage them to purchase agricultural commodities from communities. Investing in cooperatives will help foster social cohesion by bringing individuals and groups together to work around a common purpose of advancing community development. Through the cooperatives, the communities will have strengthened bargaining power to negotiate with concession companies to facilitate their use of lands for agricultural productivity.

*Output 2.2: Enhanced climate resilience of women and youth smallholder farmers in targeted communities through the implementation of climate smart agriculture techniques and integrated ecosystem management (IEM) approaches/ strategies.*

This output will enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers (mainly women and youth) to improve and scale-up agriculture production and productivity with focus on using sustainable approaches to produce diverse nutritious and high-value crops for their own home consumption and income generation. Project participants will be supported to engage in diversified agriculture activities such as production of cash crops (vegetables, casava, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, and fruits). Where the feasible, communities and smallholder farmers will be supported to participate in other agricultural activities such as small-scale fishery, livestock and honey making for improved and increased livelihood opportunities.

*Output 2.3: Capacity of LLA/EPA/NBC/SPRC and communities is strengthened to more effectively prevent conflicts driven by the depletion of livelihood opportunities and environmental hazards.*

Under this output, the project will engage the key institutions, communities and the private sector, especially concession companies, to ensure improved coordination between concession communities and concession companies to strengthen social cohesion. Through this output, the project will support the development of MOU's to be signed between the communities and the concessions. The companies will be encouraged to have Community Liaison Officers who will work with the communities to identify activities of mutual benefit to both the community and the companies for joint implementation. This will include but not limited to training of community members in life skills linked to the services provided by the companies so that community members receiving such trainings will have a source of livelihood while at the same time they will possess skills that will prepare them for future employment opportunities with the concessions.

Given the adverse effects of climate change on the availability of food and sustainable livelihoods as well as environmental hazards created by humankind, the project will support the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to guide the implementation of activities that enhance adaptation and mitigation of climate-change effects on food security and livelihoods and address environmental hazards including chemical use by concession companies. Additionally, support EPA to reduce deforestation caused by reliance on firewood use as source of household energy supply through the promotion of sustainable energy solutions in communities by introducing fuel-efficient stoves to reduce household CO2 emissions and improve on cooking conditions; promote sustainable charcoal using agricultural residues and biomass.

*Output 2.4: Strengthened capacity of workers' unions and networks, human rights advocates and MSPs, especially of women, to negotiate for improved working conditions and equal employment opportunities for both females and males.*

The output aims to enhance the institutional capacity of various stakeholders to be able to effectively participate in activities that ensure a safe and respectful work environment around the concessions and the protection of community members' human rights around concessions, including engaging in advocacy. This output will also support activities that will promote gender-balanced employment opportunities for both females and males. Activities to be implemented will include awareness creation and empowerment of women to participate in programmes that will prepare them to compete with their male counterparts for gainful employment. In addition, pro bono legal education and services will be provided to HR advocates to ensure they are protected and are given the space to freely operate within the laws.

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

#### d) Project targeting

Whereas the previous project targeted support to Nimba, Sinoe, Maryland and Grand Cape Mount counties, the new project, in addition to those counties, will also target (i) Bomi and Gbarpolu counties as they are impacted by the Western Cluster Agreement<sup>31</sup>, and (ii) Nimba and Grand Gedeh due to land-related disputes as well as the presence of Arcelor Mittal in Nimba and several forestry concessions in Grand Gedeh. In addition, the research-based report outlining findings on conflict factors at the national and county level published by the Peacebuilding Office (Ministry of Internal Affairs), placed land/property disputes and boundary/border disputes and concession-communities disputes top of the list in targeted counties. The specific target communities/districts were identified by the LLA and NBC and verified with key land sector stakeholders to avoid any duplication with existing projects by other partners.



The major concession areas are also in these targeted counties. The most potent of the land-related conflicts are between concessionaires and affected communities, over the impact of land concessions on the rights and livelihoods of these communities and often tend to exacerbate existing ethnic, political and regional divisions. Accordingly to the LLA, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh counties have benefitted less from interventions around land than other counties despite the huge issues they face. They have indicated that because of this, they would like to see a scale-up in interventions in these counties for which they have recommended it for this project.

Envisioned direct project beneficiaries are approximately 25,000 people: about 720 households, mostly women and youth, in selected counties will benefit from livelihood and other capacity-building activities. Out of the 720 households (400 female-headed and 320 male-headed), 200 of the most marginalized and extremely underprivileged rural poor women are targeted to be brought on par with other women. In addition, approximately 25,000 (10,500 women, 7,000 men, 7,500 youth between the ages 20-32) including local leaders, will benefit from awareness-raising and perception-change activities. In addition, 50 (22 women, 38 males) individuals from the MSPs and CLDMC, and 50 individuals from LLA, NBC and PBO including staff of concession companies will benefit from capacity-strengthening activities. The beneficiaries at the County level will be jointly identified by implementing partners and the local LLA officers.

UN Women, UNDP and WFP and their implementing partners will consult with communities to help develop more specific criteria of selection and engage in advance with the respective communities to inform their selection. The implementing partners of this intervention have extensive networks in the selected counties to mobilize the most marginalized, including rural women, youth, and women with disabilities. Implementing partners (civil society organizations and government institutions) will be encouraged to use the 'do-no-harm' approach/framework for their interventions at county level.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.theindependent.com.lr/2023/01/23/western-cluster-faces-probe>



### 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    |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Convening Organization:</b><br><b>UN Women</b>   | US\$7.9M                               | Government of Sweden  | Monrovia                       | 38 staff in Monrovia                             | WPS Programme Specialist                                       |
| <b>Implementing partners:</b><br>Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL),<br>National Peace Hut Women of Liberia, Liberia<br>National Rural Women Structure<br>Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI),<br>Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT), |  | Government of Ireland<br>European Union<br>PBF<br>Orange Liberia<br>Elsie Initiative Fund |                                |  | Project Officer<br>M&E   |
| <b>Recipient Organization:</b><br><b>UNDP</b>   | US\$17M                                | Government of Sweden  | Monrovia                       | 120 staff in Monrovia                            | Land Governance Officer  |
| <b>Implementing partners:</b>   |  | Government of Ireland<br>European Union<br>PBF  |                                |  | Programme Specialist<br>Project Officer<br>Programme Associate |
| <b>Recipient Organization:</b><br><b>WFP</b>  | US\$10.6M                              | Japan, LDS, France and Master Card  | Monrovia                       | 5 staff in the field                             | Deputy Country Director-Program                                |
| <b>Implementing partners:</b><br>- VOSIEDA  |  |   |                                | 44 in Monrovia                                   | Policy Officer<br>Activity Manager                             |



|                         |             |       |          |                   |                                    |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| - BRAC                  |             |       |          |                   | Programme Assistant – Field Office |
|                         |             |       |          |                   | RAM Associate                      |
| Recipient Organization: | US\$387,000 | OSIWA | Monrovia | 20 staff in Field | Country Director                   |
| AEDE                    |             | UNDP  |          |                   | Project Officer                    |
| Implementing partners:  |             |       |          |                   | Finance Officer                    |
| Non                     |             |       |          |                   | Community volunteers               |

The project will also provide funding to CSOs and CBOs, with particular emphasis on women-led organizations, to implement specific aspects of the intervention, such as:

**Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment** will receive direct funding from the PBF under this project and will be responsible for co-implementing **output 1.4** by supporting the LLA in the implementation of its communication strategy. The CSO will mobilize local community radios and develop messages on land rights. AEDE was selected because they have worked extensively with the LLA and communities in disseminating information on land rights and the LRA. They have qualified staff that have worked closely with the LLA to develop and translate key messages on land rights and the LRA in various vernaculars. In addition, they have very strong networks of community-based organizations and community radios in the selected counties that could be leveraged to support the communication strategy. With this expertise, AEDE will be able to provide hands-on support from the very inception of the project without requiring extra time to hire and train community volunteers for the task.

**Liberia National Rural Women Structure (LNRW)** will be responsible for mobilizing rural women. LNRW is the umbrella structure of all rural women-based structures at the national, county, district, and community levels. With support from the MGCSP (formerly the Ministry of Gender and Development) and UN Women (formerly UNIFEM), the structure was formed jointly in 2007. It is an advocacy platform for rural women to engage the government in support of the empowerment of rural women in Liberia. It also supports rural women's engagement in regional processes and key policy debates (e.g. Land Rights Act, Domestic Violence Act, Constitutional Review Process, Local Governance Act, etc.).

**Liberian National Women Peace Huts:** will be responsible for mobilizing women from the women peace huts as participants of the project. Since 2009, Peace Huts have evolved into platforms that have filled critical gaps in terms of consolidating peace, facilitating reconciliation and mediation, and promoting women's empowerment at the community level. These platforms are, however, not integrated into national peacebuilding mechanisms and initiatives. To address this, in addition to financially sustaining the network of Peace Huts across the country, UN Women, in collaboration with the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL), worked with all Peace Huts in 2018 to formally register a national body that represents their interests. Since December 2018 the Liberian National Women Peace Huts is a legally registered CBO.

**Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL):** will lead the advocacy for communities, with emphasis on women's rights and inclusion in decision-making processes to include concession negotiations. They will build the capacity and provide legal advice to communities in this area and support with simplification of concession agreements. They will also lead the capacity-building efforts of workers' unions and human rights advocates and lead with gender mainstreaming in concession agreements.

**Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI)** will partner with UN Women to implement **Output 1.2, Output 1.4**

FCI is a leading Liberian not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes inclusive natural resource governance, women's economic empowerment, women's protection, and peacebuilding. FCI was founded in 2004 to help promote the rights of community women and youth in achieving inclusive development at the community level. FCI also focuses on protecting women and youth from violence, as well as increasing their participation in decision-making and peacebuilding. Years of community programming have demonstrated that until women and youth are protected, and a peaceful environment is fostered in their communities, it is often difficult for them to meaningfully participate in the governance of their communities.

Recent funders of FCI's projects include UN Women, Rights and Resources Initiative, American Jewish World Service, European Commission, Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, IBIS and FERN. The organization has also implemented projects for other development agencies, including, the European Union, OXFAM, the United States Agency for International Development, Landesa, the Land Tenure Facility, etc.

#### **b) Project management and coordination**

The coordination and oversight arrangement of the project is composed of three layers:

**The Steering Committee** is co-chaired by the Chairman of the Liberia Land Authority and the UN Resident Coordinator, and includes UN Women Country Representative, UNDP Resident Representative and WFP Country Representative and a designated representative of development partners' group and CSOs. The Steering Committee will provide strategic guidance and ensure oversight of the project, including approving project annual workplans and allocating funding; supervising the progress of the project's results framework (program-related and financial), reviewing risks and making strategic decisions.

**The Technical Working Group** is chaired by UN Women and consists of the LLA, NBC, MGCSP, MoA, PPCC including members of the Presidential Special Review Committee (PSRC), donor representatives, UNDP, WFP, PBF Secretariat and AEDE. The Technical Working Group will meet as required with a minimum of 3 times a year and is responsible for: 1) reviewing project annual workplan to ensure technical quality and relevance; 2) ensuring project quality; 3) recommending projects to the Steering Committee for approval; and 4) making recommendations to the Secretariat and the PBSO regarding report presentation, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the Technical Working Group ensures that projects are (i) aligned to government's priorities and the PBF strategic framework; (ii) coordinated with existing and foreseen activities within the sector and (iii) developed in consultation with the relevant national institutions.

**Project Management Team (PMT).** The Project Management Team (PMT) will be led by UN Women in coordination with WFP and UNDP, CSOs and the government of Liberia. UN Women will assign a National Project Officer (NPO) to coordinate and manage the Project (fully funded by the PBF). The PMT will be tasked with the responsibility of developing joint plans, reporting to the Steering Committee on the implementation of activities, achievement of results, and financial accountability of the project. The PMT will also coordinate activities between the UN Agencies, Government agencies and the Implementing partners ensuring that all the activities are complementary, and that implementation and monitoring of the project is in line with the endorsed work plan and M&E framework. Additionally, the PMT will work closely with the government and CSO partners providing technical support where needed in land management, land dispute resolution and gender. Thus, technical staff assigned to this project will have technical expertise in land management and land dispute resolution. As part of the project management team, UNDP, UN Women and WFP will have National Project Officers (partially funded by the PBF) for the oversight and implementation of the activities it contributes to. The PMT also includes focal persons from government institutions and CSO.

The PMT will hold a project coordination meeting monthly to ensure inclusive consultation and coordination among all stakeholders (UN agencies, government, implementing partners, PBF Secretariat, etc.). At the meeting, stakeholders will monitor progress made against the joint work plan and understand the issues that require collective actions for the next months.

### PBF Secretariat

The PBF Secretariat will provide oversight and support coordination, monitoring and compliance with PBF guidelines. 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 progress. This project will participate in the Secretariat's regular Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) Meetings to present progress on implementation.

### Quality Assurance

Project quality assurance is the responsibility of LLA, UN Women, UNDP and WFP project managers. Their role is to ensure that appropriate project management measures are put in place and the milestones and targets are achieved in a quality and timely manner.

The overall coordination of this project will be the responsibility of the UN Women National Programme Officer with support from the Programme Officers of UNDP and WFP. All project staff will also have a reporting line to the UN Women National programme officer to ensure strong coherence of the project.

The PMT will be comprised of the following international and national staff:

| UN Women  | UNDP  | WFP   |
|---|---|---|
| Country Deputy Representative - Not Funded by PBF - recruited   | Deputy Resident Representative for Programmes - Not Funded by PBF                             | Deputy Country Director – Not funded by PBF   |
| Women Peace and Security Programme Specialist – Partially funded by PBF (20% = \$13,920 per year) already recruited | National Land Governance Officer- partially funded by PBF (50% = \$43,135.5 (3Yrs.) recruited | Programme Policy Officer /HoP – Partially funded by PBF (10% = \$21,303.30 (3yrs) already recruited)                              |
| National Programme Officer - funded by PBF (100% = \$48,000 per year) already recruited                             | National Programme Officer - funded by PBF (50% = \$98,250 (3 yrs.)) recruited                | Programme Policy Officer – Partially funded by the PBF (60% = \$69,458.40 (3yrs) recruitment process on-going)                    |
| International UNV – funded by PBF (100% = \$31,818.64 per year) already recruited                                   | Program Associate – funded by PBF (100% = \$76,341 (3yrs) to be recruited                     | Programme Associate (Activity Manager for the PBF Project) – Partially funded by PBF (60% = \$50,054.40 (3yrs) already recruited) |
| Communications Officer – partially funded by PBF (20% = \$9,600 per year) recruited                                 | Finance Associate - Not Funded by PBF   | Finance Assistant – Partially funded by PBF (10% = \$15,058.50 (3yrs) already recruited)  |
| Finance Associate - Not Funded by PBF   | Logistic and supply team- Not Funded by the PBF   | Driver – Partially funded by PBF – 15% = \$ 4,302.85 already recruited  |
| Programme Assistant- Not funded by the PBF  | Programme Assistant- Not funded by the PBF  | M&E Assistant – Partially funded by PBF (30% = \$18,793.80 (3yrs) already recruited)  |
| M&E Specialist - Not Funded by the PBF  | M&E Specialist - Not Funded by the PBF  | Research, Assessment & Monitoring (RAM) – International staff - Not Funded by the PBF   |
| Driver- Not Funded by the PBF   |   | Supply Chain team including Procurement – Not Funded by the PBF   |

Communication, Advocacy & Marketing (CAM) Officer - Not Funded by the PBF

### c) Risk management

Risks will be monitored and managed on a regular basis to ensure that the project is on track to achieve its desired long-term and short-term objectives. The risk review will be done on a yearly basis.

| #  | Description  | Type            | Impact & Probability | Countermeasures / Management response   | Owner                   |
|----|--|-----------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Companies are unwilling to participate in this intervention and resolve conflicts  | Economic/social | High                 | UN Agencies met the companies in targeted counties during the project formulation and consultation phase of this project and they were willing to participate in the proposed intervention. UN Agencies will ensure continuous engagement with these companies in coordination with MSP and NBC.  | All UN Agencies/OLA/NBC |
| 2  | sustainability of this positive response from companies post the project's completion  | Economic/social | High                 | Increased monitoring by CSOs and the NBC. Companies will be recognized for meeting their obligations to communities and the NBC will publish these positive actions through regular highlights in the form of newsletter showing best practices of concession companies fulfilling their obligations  | CSOs NBC                |
| 3. | Possible resistance and backlash from the society to women's increased influence and leadership  | Social/Gender   | Low                  | Awareness-raising campaigns will be rolled out in targeted Counties targeting men and boys, traditional leaders, community leaders and local leaders . Continuous engagements with traditional and local leaders on the need to allow women in leadership. A robust Project Communication Plan could also be used to address this (targeting leaders and different segments of the society) | All Agencies            |
| 4. | Women are unable to participate in trainings /workshops and events due to family work burden (domestic work, childcaring, adult care, caring for sick) | Social/gender   | Low                  | Gender and power analysis will be conducted at the inception phase of the project to inform the best approach for implementation and ensure women's participation in events and activities without being overburdened. We will explore the possibility of providing child care spaces.  | All UN Agencies         |
| 5. | More vulnerable and poor groups cannot attend trainings and workshops due to lack of transport means   | Economic/social | Medium               | Workshops will be organized at sites where community members convene, and transport costs will be provided for participants   | All UN Agencies         |



|    |   |          |        |   |  |
|----|---|----------|--------|---|--|
| 6. | Remoteness of targeted areas and poor roads to reach project sites    | Physical | Medium | Implementing partners have presence in counties   | All UN Agencies                        |
| 7. | Fragility of the peace, civil unrest                                  | Social   | Low    | The project addresses one of the conflict triggers. Strong emphasis on peace by the UN and mediation support will be provided to the Government and opposition  | All UN Agencies                        |
| 8  | Women are marginalized from decisions and ownership of customary land | Social   | Low    | The project will ensure that women are included in leadership positions of customary land management committees and men will be targeted to change social norms and stereotypes about women land ownership and to enable them to understand women right to access land as men | All UN Agencies and LLA/NBC            |
| 9  | Eruption of communities- concessions conflicts/violence               | Physical | Medium | ADR mechanisms are trained to detect early warning signs of potential conflicts and how to mediate to prevent tensions from escalating to full conflicts. The project will support the relevant ministries and agencies of government to quickly intervene.                   | ADR Mechanisms LLA NBC All UN Agencies |

#### d) Monitoring and evaluation

UN Women, UNDP and WFP will ensure the establishment of functional management and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at all levels with particular attention to: (i) efficiency in resource management; (ii) the effectiveness of implemented actions and the quality of the annual and final results; (iii) the ability to generate sustainable results and impacts, especially through the implementation of standardized and replicable processes, (iv) ensure annual planning, updating data, periodic reviews, joint field missions, documentation of good practices (v) synergies between the different components of the project, and with other PBF projects/peacebuilding projects funded by other partners.

UN Women as a lead agency will take full responsibility for the coordination of M&E responsibilities to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the project. This will be done in close collaboration with the LMPTF secretariat, WFP and UNDP. The approximate budget allocated for M&E is USD 200,000 (5% of the total budget). This includes USD65,000 for the independent evaluation of this project.

In fact, monitoring the compliance of concession agreements is solely the responsibility of the NBC; however, this must be done in collaboration with line ministries and agencies according to section 7 of the Act establishing the National Bureau of Concessions<sup>32</sup>. In most instances, concessions are reviewed by the Special Presidential Committee which is situated within the office of the President or the National Legislature. At both levels, the communities are not involved in the process. Findings from the Special Presidential Committee are often not made public and legislative reviews do not result in any meaningful recommendations to impact the communities. The communities are left in the dark and excluded from the negotiation processes.

This project is intended to create the space for community involvement in both the inception and the review of such agreements, including by creating a space for the National Bureau of Concessions and communities to dialogue on new concessions as well as be part of concessions review processes. Additionally, communities will have more information on the corporate social responsibilities of these concessionaires to hold them accountable. Within all this, the project will specifically aim to empower women.

<sup>32</sup> Section 7, of the Act creating the National Bureau of Concession (2010)



Key monitoring and evaluation actions include:

- Develop joint work plan and an M&E plan.
- Conduct trainings on Results Based Management for Government and CSO implementing partners.
- Quarterly project implementation review meetings with partners
- Quarterly joint monitoring field visits. Nature of the monitoring visits may vary according to the monitoring calendar and as per need i.e. focus of UN Women/ UNDP/WFP will be on gauging outputs leading to results during the monitoring visits.
- Carry out spot checks on selected project sites
- Review quarterly project reports of implementing partners
- Organize a mid-term program team retreat with key project implementing partners to assess progress on implementation and potentially adjust interventions as required.
- Develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for an external Evaluation consultant and commission an end of project independent evaluation to collect endline data and document lessons learnt to inform future programs and initiatives. The summative evaluation process will determine the extent to which the project outcomes were achieved. The end of project evaluation report will include impacts, lessons learned, future perspectives and recommendations. The evaluation process will be coordinated and managed by UN Women as a lead agency in close consultation with UNDP and WFP
- WFP will also use a Complaint Feedback Mechanism (CFM) with dedicated toll-free hotlines to collect feedback from the communities throughout the project. This will go live from the second quarter of the project and feedback collected will be reviewed monthly and actions taken shared with communities. This will help improve project implementation and the quality of services delivered.
- Under the orientation of the LMPTF Technical Secretariat in Liberia, UN Women, WFP and UNDP will consolidate a periodic technical and financial report in line with LMPTF guidelines.

As stated in the LMPTF Terms of Reference, the LMPTF Secretariat will ensure monitoring and evaluation of operational risks, quality and timely delivery of project performance, and knowledge management

#### **e) Project exit strategy/ sustainability**

A major thrust of the proposed project is to build capacity for government institutions in charge of the implementation of the LLA and LGA using different approaches such as learning by doing, trainings, workshops, and production of knowledge products. The capacity building will sustain development progress beyond the duration of support from this project.

Investment in awareness raising and capacity development will help these institutions to better understand their roles better and therefore deliver better quality services. Building ownership at individual as well as institutional levels is crucial to the sustainability and hence exit strategy of this project. The extent of ownership would catalyze self-sustaining development given the mandates of these institutions. Ownership will be built from the onset with an inception workshop for all responsible parties and stakeholders throughout project implementation through use of participatory approaches to achieve results, including the development of capacity development plans and their roll out. This includes concessionaries that will be engaged from onset of the project to secure their deeper engagement in the MSPs, implementation of their agreements with Government and communities, and potential support to MSPs and communities.

The project through the intervention of implementing partners will aim at changing perceptions of women, men and local leaders about women's and youth's rights to land. In addition, the project aims at changing the perception of women and vulnerable women about local leaders, and their knowledge about their rights, mechanisms and processes available to resolve land related disputes.

Meanwhile, as was done under the previous PBF land project, the LLA will assume responsibility of the ADR mechanisms and include them in their budget for support as part of the community land dispute resolution support mandated by the Land Rights Act. They will continue to lobby donors and other international and national partners including concession companies for support. With regards to the Women Advocacy Platforms, they will be incorporated under the Women Peace Huts and therefore form a critical part of the functions of the

Peace Huts. Discussions are ongoing to have the NBC adopt the use of digital tools and systems as a means of easing their work.

In addition, the UN agencies will support the Government to organize a Donor Forum to present the results/objectives of the project with the aim to mobilize additional resources.

#### **Communication and donor visibility**

As part of the Communication Plan, the project will focus on a robust visibility of PBF as the Donor in the activities to be implemented as enshrined in the Project Document. During the implementation phase, PBF will be informed of all activities via e-mail and/or written communication. PBF will be invited to attend all official programs. Implementing Partners reports will be shared with PBF, and its logo reflected on all programs and cover pages of reports. It will be incumbent on IPs to take appropriate action to publicize the support received from PBF. The UN Agencies will ensure sharing of key project results— through media releases and social media. A budgeted communication and visibility plan will be included in the AWP for any activities supported by PBF within the project life cycle. Approximately US\$98,000 is budgeted for communications while additional funding for communications is budgeted under awareness and other activities.

#### **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.

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 both the UN recipients and the CSO recipient at the percentage of 70% and 30% respectively. The first tranche totaling US\$2,390,000 will be transferred upon the signing of the project. The second tranche of US\$1,070,000 will be released upon demonstration by the project that the first tranche has been expensed or committed to at least 75% between the recipients, clear demonstration that performance benchmarks are met and upon completion of any regular PBF reports.

Project staff costs cover a Project Manager from UN Women and Programme Officers from UNDP and WFP dedicated to supporting the implementation of the project. It will also cover the costs for two International UNVs and 20 percent of the salaries of procurement and communication offices. The M&E budget amounts to

\$148,431.00, representing 6.22% 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  | Planning |     | Yes No | Comment  |
|---|----------|-----|--------|--|
|   |          |     |        |  |
| 1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline  |          | X   |        | Ips are identified and participated in the project consultations |
| 2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission   |          | X   |        | TORs are ready   |
| 3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline  |          | X   |        | Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Gbarpolu and Bomi Counties                   |
| 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   |        | See stakeholders' consultation section above                     |
| 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   |        |  |
| 6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.  |          | X   |        |  |
| 7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?                                   |          | X   |        |  |
| 8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?  |          | X   |        |  |
| 9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?  |          | N/A |        |  |
| 10. Did UN gender expertise inform the design of the project (e.g. has a gender adviser/expert/focal point or UN Women colleague provided input)?   |          | X   |        |  |
| 11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?   |          | X   |        |  |
| 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   |        | 100% of the budget is allocated to GEWE                          |



## 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   |    |                 |
| 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.   |     | X  |                 |
| 8.       | Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.   |     | X  |                 |

## **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 close a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations’ headquarters);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

### **Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations**

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

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

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

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

#### Financial reporting and timeline

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

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

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>31 July</b>    | Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)      |
| <b>31 October</b> | Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September) |

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

#### Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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



## Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website ([www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund)) and the Administrative Agent's website ([www.mptf.undp.org](http://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 | Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist |

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

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

#### Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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

#### Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website ([www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund)) and the Administrative Agent website ([www.mptf.undp.org](http://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.<sup>33</sup>
- 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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<sup>33</sup> 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  | Performance Indicators  | Means of Verification  | Activities | Budget (USD)     |
|---|---|--|------------|------------------|
| <b>Outcome</b><br>1: Authorities at national and local levels manage land allocation, registration and licensing processes that support women's participation in land governance in a more effective, transparent, and inclusive manner, reducing conflict. | <p>Indicator 1a: % of members of the communities (disaggregated by sex, age) coexist and express satisfaction on land allocation, registration, and leasing processes in an inclusive manner</p> <p>Baseline: 50% 47% females and 53% males (previous project)<br/>           Target: at least 80% (35% females and 45% males between the ages 20 – 70 yrs)<br/>           Milestones: by 2026</p> <p>Indicator 1.b. Functioning gender and youth-sensitive land conflict resolution mechanisms in concession zones</p> <p>Baseline: 20 8 funded by PBF project<br/>           Target: At least 60 (40 funded by PBF project)<br/>           Milestones: 40 by the end of 2026</p> <p>Indicator 1.c. Number of concession agreements in targeted counties negotiated/reviewed with communities' participation</p> <p>Baseline: 0<br/>           Target: at least 3<br/>           Milestones: by 2026</p> | <p>Data Source: LLA/PBO and baseline study report from the previous project, perception survey</p> <p>Data Collection: LLA/PBO, SCORE<br/>           Baseline data, yearly</p> |            | US\$1,460,000.00 |
| <b>Output</b><br>1.1. Concession-affected communities including women have the capacity to participate and contribute   | <p>Indicator 1.1.a. Number of opportunities for community members to participate in concession negotiation processes.</p> <p>Baseline 0<br/>           Target: At least 4</p>   | <p>Data Source: Reports from Implementing partners<br/>           LLA/NBC Reports</p>  |            | US\$165,000      |

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| meaningfully to decision-making in the licensing and awarding of concession contracts.   | <p>Milestones: annually</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.b: % of concession contracts with gender mainstreamed</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: At least 60% by 2026</p> <p>Milestones: annually</p>  | <p>2. Advocate for communities' inclusion in concession negotiation processes.</p> <p>3. Support consolidation of the Concession Information Management System ensuring integration with Liberia's Land Authority Information System</p> <p>4. Advocate for mainstreaming gender in concession contracts.</p> <p>5. Facilitate lessons learned/knowledge-sharing visits of community members participating in concession negotiation processes</p> | <p>1. Conduct a comprehensive mapping and assessment of ADR mechanism and the gender sensitiveness of semi-formal land dispute resolution bodies in Grand Gedeh, Bonri and Gbarpolu counties.</p> <p>2. Provide technical support to the Inter-ministerial Concession Committee, SPRC, NBC to enhance transparency and engender the concession contracting process and agreement negotiations and implementation by raising awareness on UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and FPIC</p> <p>3. Support the implementation of the NBC gender policy by strengthening the capacity of the gender unit.</p> | <p>Data Source: Reports from Implementing partners</p> <p>Data Collection: implementing partners on a quarterly basis</p> | US\$210,000 |
| <p><b>Output 1.2: Gender sensitive semi-formal land dispute resolution bodies (County Peace Committees, Community Land Development and Management Committees, multi-stakeholder platforms) are strengthened to resolve disputes through the ADR, in a sustainable gender and youth responsive manner</b></p> | <p>Indicator 1.2.a: % of members from existing semi-formal land dispute resolution bodies with strengthened skills and knowledge on Gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive conflict prevention, and mediation disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>Baseline: 63%</p> <p>Target: 80%</p> <p>Milestones: 80%</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.b: existence of a database of cases, disaggregated by sex and age, resolved by semi-formal mechanisms in targeted counties</p> <p>Baseline: No</p> <p>Target: Yes</p> <p>Milestones: TBD</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.c: Number of cases resolved by semi-formal land dispute resolution bodies</p> |  |  |   |             |

Baseline 10  
Target: At least 50  
Milestones: 50 by 2025

4. Roll out training on gender, masculinities, and land rights, gender-responsive conflict resolution and LRA for members of the CLDMC, County Land Offices, Peace huts, MSP in Grand Gedeh, Bonri and Gbarpolu counties
5. Introduce a women's land rights platform within the Women Peace Huts to facilitate education and ongoing sensitization on the Land Rights Act, and foster cooperation with the land authorities and other land dispute resolution bodies
6. Conduct tailored capacity-building sessions for Liberia National Rural Women Structure to draw on the gender-climate-security nexus in their future advocacy efforts to demonstrate the linkages between rural women's access to land tenure, resolution of land disputes, and climate adaptation
7. Train women and youth (especially, girls) on literacy and numeracy, on land governance initiatives (LRA, LGA and others) and in participating in formal and informal land governance mechanisms including (CLDM, CPC, peace huts, multi stakeholders' platforms)
8. Institutional support to the women's peace huts to facilitate their work in supporting mediation



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| <p><b>Output 1.3.</b> LLA, NBC and PBO have the capacity and procedures to undertake boundary harmonization and formalization of customary land at community level thereby creating equal access for community and cohesiveness</p> | <p><b>1.3.a. Number of civil servants from LLA conducting boundary harmonization activities disaggregated by sex and age</b></p> <p>Baseline: 80 (31 females and 49 males)<br/>Target: At least 120 (60 women and 60 men)<br/>Milestones: At least 120 (60 women and 60 men) by December 2025</p> <p><b>1.3.b. Number of customary land boundaries identified by communities and demarcated</b></p> <p>Baseline: 13<br/>Target: At least 35<br/>Milestones: 35 by the end of 2026</p> <p><b>1.3.c. Number of communities using land maps</b></p> <p>Baseline: 0<br/>Target: At least 8<br/>Milestones: 8 by the end of 2026</p> | <p>Data Source: Reports from Consultant/partners<br/>Data Collection: On a quarterly basis (UNDP)</p> <p>Data Source: Report from consultant/partners</p> <p>Data Collection: Pre and post-tests (UN Women)</p> | <p>and community awareness and education activities, in collaboration with other projects supporting Peace Hubs</p> <p>1: Conduct internal harmonization including vetting of private claims &amp; Tribals Certificate TCs for eight (8) communities that have gone through the Customary Land Formalization (CLF) at Clan level under phase I</p> <p>2: Conduct Land Use Planning and produce land use maps for eight (8) communities that have gone through the Customary Land Formalization (CLF) at Clan level under phase I</p> <p>3: Conduct scoping exercise and development of community profiles to assess the communities' preparedness for the CLF process</p> <p>4: Deliver training in targeted counties on the various steps to familiarize communities with various steps leading to formalization of customary land process</p> | <p>US\$769,500</p> <p>5. Support communities to carry out community self -identification (CSI)</p> |
|---|---|---|---|--|

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|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Output 1.4: LLA has enhanced capacity to fully implement its land communication strategy as per the implementation plan including decentralization of existing land information system.</b></p> | <p><b>Indicator 1.4a: Number of women and youth trained and disseminating information on community land rights disaggregated by age and sex</b></p> <p>Baseline: 0<br/>Target: 250 at the end of project<br/>Milestones: (annually)</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.4b: % of community members with information on the LRA</b></p> <p>Baseline: TBD<br/>Target: 50%<br/>Milestones: (annually)</p> | <p>Data Source: Reports from Implementing partners<br/>LLA Reports<br/>Social media reports</p> | <p>6. Support the roll-out of various by-laws to operationalize the CLDMCs</p> <p>7. Support CLMDCs to hold transparent elections for leaders</p> <p>8. Support the erection of boundary billboards where boundary conflicts are resolved</p> <p>1. produce and disseminate 20 episodes of serial radio drama in local vernaculars around land rights laws, policies and regulations including women land rights and customary land rights</p> <p>2. Train 250 young women as community animators to facilitate continuous dissemination at the community level</p> <p>3. Print and distribute copies of land rights laws and policies.</p> <p>4. Hold 15 community dialogues with women, youth and people with disabilities around land rights</p> <p>5. Engage community radios through training and small grants/funding to disseminate</p> |
|   |  |   | <p>US\$315,500</p>   |





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| <p><b>Output 2.1.</b> targeted women and youth. Including cooperatives, have sustained livelihood opportunities provided in collaboration with concession companies through climate-smart agriculture activities</p> | <p><b>Indicator 2.1.a.</b> Number of smallholder farmers supported with training, inputs, equipment and infrastructure</p> <p>Baseline: 0<br/>Target: 800 (500 women and 300 men)<br/>Milestones: (Quarterly or bi-annually): Bi-annually</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.b.</b> Percentage of target beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex) expressing satisfaction on identifying and addressing livelihoods and environmental hazards' concerns through MSPs and CLDMCs as relevant</p> <p>Baseline: 0%<br/>Target: At least 80%<br/>Milestones: (Quarterly or bi-annually): Bi-annually</p> | <p>Data Source: Report<br/>Data Collection: (method/ who/when): Project data/WFP</p> | <p>1. Support 800 project participants to receive training in climate-smart agriculture over the project cycle of two years.</p> <p>2. Support 800 project participants to participate in asset creation/ agriculture activities including soil-water management, flood control measures, dykes, irrigation canals, land preparation, nursery, planting, reforestation etc based on work norms through food/cash for asset creation</p> <p>3. Strengthening the capacity of national and local official in the Ministry of Agriculture to support, guide and monitor various crops through demonstration and technologies including food quality assurance</p> <p>4. Construction of 2 (200mt capacity) post-harvest storage facilities that will include zero energy cooling chambers, drying and threshing floors, and purchase of hermetic bags</p> <p>5. Procure and deliver of agri-equipment, stress-tolerant seedlings and tools for three agro equipment facilities and processing sites to increase farmers' productivity in the three new counties.</p> <p>6. Organize 3 policy advocacy meetings on access to land for women and youth smallholder farmers</p> |
|  |   |  | US\$392,154.67  |



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| <p><b>Output</b><br/>Institutional capacity of LLA/EPA/NBC/SPR C is strengthened to effectively prevent conflicts driven by the depletion of livelihood opportunities and environmental hazards</p>      | <p><b>Indicator</b> 2.3.a. Staff members of LLA/EPA/NBC/SPRC trained to effectively prevent conflicts driven by the depletion of livelihood opportunities and environmental hazards disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>Baseline: 0<br/>Target: At least 150 (100 women and 50 men)<br/>Milestones: (Quarterly or bi-annually); Bi-annually</p>  | <p>6. Support the development of a solar based irrigation project in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and EPA</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Output</b><br/>2.3. Institutional capacity of LLA/EPA/NBC/SPR C is strengthened to effectively prevent conflicts driven by the depletion of livelihood opportunities and environmental hazards</p> | <p><b>Indicator</b> 2.3.a. Staff members of LLA/EPA/NBC/SPRC trained to effectively prevent conflicts driven by the depletion of livelihood opportunities and environmental hazards disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>Baseline: 31 (12 females &amp; 19 males)<br/>Target: At least 65 (27 females &amp; 38 males)<br/>Milestones: (Quarterly or bi-annually); Bi-annually</p> <p><b>Indicator</b> 2.3.b. Number community members trained to determine water pollution and rejuvenate water sources disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>Baseline: 25 (7 females &amp; 18 males)<br/>Target: At least 50 (25 females &amp; 25 males)<br/>Milestones: (Quarterly or bi-annually); Bi-annually</p> | <p>Data Source: Report<br/>Data Collection: (method/who/when): Project data/WFP</p> <p>Data Source: Report<br/>Data Collection: (method/who/when): Project data/WFP</p> | <p>US\$193,230.80</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support EPA to manage Environmental hazards (deforestation, land degradation, over-exploitation of soil and use of chemicals, water pollution) in targeted concession areas</li> <li>2. Strengthen the call center at NBC to monitor the process of feedback and complaints on livelihood and environment concerns from the outset to closure</li> <li>3. Facilitate two regional technology/agriculture demonstrations and exposure visits for women and youth smallholder farmers</li> <li>4. Support the capacity strengthening of NBC to respond to concession-related issues effectively and efficiently.</li> </ol> |



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| <p><b>Output</b><br/>strengthened capacity of workers' unions, Multi-stakeholders platforms and human rights advocates, especially women, to negotiate working conditions and equal employment opportunities for females,</p> | <p><b>2.4.</b><br/><b>Indicator 2.4.a</b> % of workers' unions and human rights advocates engaging concession companies through the MSPs disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>Baseline: JIBC<br/>Target: At least 85%<br/>Milestones: At least 85% by end of the project</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.4.b</b> Number of concession companies with gender policies and/or procedures to address SEA and harassment in the workplace</p> <p>Baseline: 0<br/>Target: At least 3<br/>Milestones: by 2026</p> | <p>Meeting minutes<br/>NBC reports<br/>Monitoring reports<br/>Newspapers articles</p> | <p>5. Organize 2 stakeholder training workshops on livelihood and environmental concerns for policymakers</p> <p>1. Provide technical support to female workers' unions and platforms and human rights advocates to advocate for better working conditions for women.</p> <p>2. train members of workers' unions and platforms, especially women, in concession areas on how to address issues of SEA and harassment as well as document and report cases</p> <p>3. Advocate and provide technical support and training to concession companies to develop and adopt gender policies and understand SEA issues and human rights obligations</p> | <p>US\$230,000</p> |
|   |  |   | <p>4. support the conduct of awareness-raising amongst senior management of concession companies on the promotion of women's rights in the workplace</p> <p>5. conduct a gender assessment of concession companies in the targeted counties</p> <p>6. facilitate dialogues between females workers' unions and management of concession companies through the MSPs</p>  |                    |

7. Train concessions on their duty under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to conduct heightened human rights due diligence.

**Information on Concessions, Targeted counties and existing land dispute resolution mechanisms and land administration offices in Targeted Project Counties**

| Name of county     | Major conflict factors in the county <sup>34</sup>   | Name of existing concession  | Activity of Engagement  | Location of concessions per district  | Name of the targeted districts and communities with this intervention  | Population | Land related conflict issues   | Dispute Resolution Mechanism   | Existing LLA Office   | Existing Interventions supported by other development partners (LLA's partners active in these districts/ counties)                |
|--------------------|--|--|---|---|--|------------|--|--|---|--|
| Nimba              | Mass land grabbing by elite citizens, influx of foreigners from Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso and illegal occupation  | Arcelor Mittal Concession  | Iron Ore Mining, Cash crops that include Cocoa, Coffee and Oil Palm | Yarmehm, Gbor Admin, District, Kpablee District, Gbehlai Geh, Menpea-Mah Yarwin Districts | Zor Clan, Yourpea Clan, Sango-zoo, Menboyee Clan, Blenon Clan  | TBD        | Illegal occupation by Bukinabees, Concession and Conflict on overlapping, existing concession set to expire and communities to take over land and renew contract | MSP, CLDMC, LLA ADR mechanisms   | Yes, LLA has office in the county and field staff deployed in disputed zones      | PARLEY Liberia, SDI, LMPTF (Sustaining Peace)  |
| Grand Gedeh County | - Elite citizens are involved in land grabbing;<br>- Burkinabe migrants brought in the county to work on the farms of elite citizens of the county are involved are large scale agricultural | No knowledge of concession in the area, but there exists high level of illegal artisanal mining which pose a high danger | Cash crops that include Cocoa, Coffee and Oil Palm                  | <b>B'hai</b> Administrative District, Gbao Administrative District, Konobo, Putu          | <b>B'hai Admin.</b> District: Communities: Marbo Tian Duogee Duo B'hai Nico Gbao Admin. District Communities: Marbo Nezonee Gbaobo | TBD        | Land grabbing by elite citizens; Occupation of community land by Burkinabe migrants; Insecure tenure of community lands  | There's no MSP in the county, land disputes are mainly settled through the LLA ADR Mechanism | Yes, there's a fully staff LLA County Offices located at the City Hall in Zwedru. | Coalition of ActionAid, ForumCIV and DEN-L have conducted awareness on Land Rights Act, with specific focus on Women's land rights |

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|----------|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|---|-----|---|--|---|--|
| Bomi     | activities, which is creating disputes in the districts occupied by these Burkinabe migrants | to the community land in various form including environment al degradation in addition the land grabbing. Additionally, the communal land grabbing has led to large scale cash crop farming and also mechanized farming that leave a mass of negative impacts on the community | Mano Oil Palm Company; Western Cluster Mining Company | -Oil Palm concession, -Iron Ore concession, private and individual farming on community land | Sengeh and Klay Districts    | Sengeh District Communities:<br>1. Lower Togay<br>2. Manoh<br>3. Upper Togay<br>4. Zepoh<br><br>Klay District Communities:<br>1. Gordlah<br>2. Kpo<br>3. Mannah | TBD | Encroachment of community land by company; Unfair compensation to communities by Mano Oil Palm Company; Land grabbing by elites in the county; Insecure tenure of community lands | Yes, there exist MSP in the county but it is not functional in land dispute resolution. The LLA ADR Mechanism is what is being used in the entire county | Yes, there's a LLA office in Tubmanburg City                            | Community Rights Support Facility facilitated the implementation of CST and CLDMC for seven communities in the two districts |
| Gbarpolu | Land disputes between elites and communities; Boundary disputes between communities          | Land disputes between elites and communities; Concession;  | Western Cluster Mining Company                        | Iron Ore Concession; Private Oil Palm Plantations  | Bopolu and Gbarmah Districts | Bopolu District Communities:<br>1. Bondi<br>2. Mandingo<br>3. Bambu   | TBD | Land grabbing by elites for cash crops production;  | No MSP in the county. There is a need to organize one.   | Yes, LLA has a skeleton team of three staff (County Land Administrator, | The LLA conducted awareness on the Land Rights Act in the county in 2022, with the support of the Liberia Land               |



|   |  |   |  |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |                               |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Boundary and land disputes between communities; | Private Oil Palm Plantations   | Iron Ore; Artisanal Gold and Diamond mining; timber   | Porkpa, Gola Konneh and Garvulah Districts | Porkpa District Communities:<br>1. Sokpo<br>2. Kpoko<br>3. Benduma<br><br>Gola Konneh District Communities:<br>1. Eaar<br>2. Marina<br>3. Jennehmana | TBD | Land grabbing by elites for cash crops<br>Expansion by mining companies to new communities due to resource endowment of those communities; | Yes, there exist MSP in the county but it is not functional in land dispute resolution. The LLA ADR Mechanism is what is being used in the entire county | Yes, the LLA has a functional office in the county   | Surveyor and Assistant Surveyor) in the county | Possibility of Western Cluster Mining Company expansion to new communities due to resource endowment of those communities; | Administration Project (LLAP) |
| Grand Cape Mount                                | Land disputes between communities due to resource endowment; Land grabbing by influential politicians and wealthy personalities for agricultural activities; Disputes between communities for possession of community forest | Western Cluster Mining Company; Bea Mountain Mining Company; Artisanal Gold and Diamond mining communities<br>Logging Company |  |  |     |  |  | The communities have received some supports that include, awareness raising campaign on the Land Rights Act, implemented some CLF steps that include CSI and CLDMC |  |  |                               |

| Monitoring Activity                       | Purpose  | Frequency  | Expected Action   | Partners (if joint)                |
|---|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Track progress results</b>             | Progress data against the results indicators in the Results and Resource Framework will be collected and analyzed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs. | Quarterly or bi-annually                               | Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.  | UN Women/WFP/UNDP                  |
| <b>Project coordination meeting</b>       | Ensure inclusive consultation and coordination among all stakeholders (UN agencies, Government, IPs, PBF Secretariat, etc.) to ensure joint delivery of quality results as planned.      | Monthly  | Monitor progress made against the joint work plan. All stakeholders understand the issues that require collective actions for next 1-2 months.                            | UN Women/WFP/UNDP/ Secretariat     |
| <b>Monitor and Manage Risk</b>            | Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log.  | Quarterly  | Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken. | PBF Secretariat /UN Women/WFP/UNDP |
| <b>Learn</b>                              | Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.                     | At least annually                                      | Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.  | PBF Secretariat /UN Women/WFP/UNDP |
| <b>Annual Project Quality Assurance</b>   | The quality of the project will be assessed to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision-making to improve the project.                                | Annually   | Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.  | PBF Secretariat /UN Women/WFP/UNDP |
| <b>Review and Make Course Corrections</b> | Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision-making.  | At least annually                                      | Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.  | UN Women/WFP/UNDP                  |
| <b>Project Report</b>                     | A progress report will be presented to the LMPTF Steering Committee and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results  | Annually, and at the end of the project (final report) | Timely production of quality reports (narrative and financial).   | PBF Secretariat /UN Women/WFP/UNDP |

|                       |   |          |  |                   |
|-----------------------|---|----------|--|-------------------|
|                       | achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.   |          |  |                   |
| <b>Project Review</b> | The PBF Secretariat will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the multi-year work plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Secretariat shall hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences. | Annually | Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified. | UN Women/WFP/UNDP |

#### Evaluation and Audit Plan

| Evaluation / Audit Title  | Partners (if joint) | Planned Completion Date | Key Evaluation Stakeholders                     | Cost and Source of Funding |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| End of project evaluation | UN Women            | 2026                    | PBF secretariat /UNDP, WFP, Government and CSOs | USD 60,000<br>PBF          |

For MPTFO Use

| Totals   |              |              |              |            |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
|  | UN Women     | UNDP         | WFP          | AEDE       | Totals       |
| 1. Staff and other personnel                                   | \$ 443,250   | \$ 215,080   | \$ 327,940   | \$ 42,000  | \$ 1,028,270 |
| 2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials                            | \$ 35,000    | \$ 100,000   | \$ 88,883    | \$ 65,000  | \$ 288,883   |
| 3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation) | \$ 33,300    | \$ 150,000   | \$ 60,000    | \$ 10,000  | \$ 253,300   |
| 4. Contractual services  | \$ 210,621   | \$ 144,079   | \$ 158,190   | \$ 69,916  | \$ 582,806   |
| 5. Travel  | \$ 99,792    | \$ 60,000    | \$ 29,000    | \$ -       | \$ 188,792   |
| 6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts                        | \$ 266,620   | \$ 100,000   | \$ 140,000   | \$ -       | \$ 506,620   |
| 7. General Operating and other Costs                           | \$ 126,370   | \$ 165,420   | \$ 130,566   | \$ -       | \$ 422,356   |
| Sub-Total  | \$ 1,214,953 | \$ 934,579   | \$ 934,579   | \$ 186,916 | \$ 3,271,028 |
| 7% Indirect Costs  | \$ 85,047    | \$ 65,421    | \$ 65,421    | \$ 13,084  | \$ 228,972   |
| Total  | \$ 1,300,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 3,500,000 |

| Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown |              |              |              |            |              |           |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
|                                     | UN Women     | UNDP         | WFP          | AEDE       | TOTAL        | Tranche % |
| First Tranche:                      | \$ 780,000   | \$ 600,000   | \$ 600,000   | \$ 120,000 | \$ 2,100,000 | 60%       |
| Second Tranche:                     | \$ 520,000   | \$ 400,000   | \$ 400,000   | \$ 80,000  | \$ 1,400,000 | 40%       |
| Third Tranche:                      | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ -       | \$ -         | 0%        |
| TOTAL                               | \$ 1,300,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 3,500,000 |           |