SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country(ies): Liberia and Sierra Leone	

Project Title: GOLA-REAP – Resilience, Empowerment, Access and Peacebuilding along Liberia and Sierra Leone border.	

Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project):

PBF project modality: ☐ IRF ☒ PRF	**If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund (instead of into individual recipient agency accounts):** ☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ Regional Trust Fund **Name of Recipient Fund:**

List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by type of organization (UN, CSO etc.):

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Liberia (convening agency),
International Organization for Migration (IOM) Sierra Leone,
World Food Programme (WFP), Liberia,
World Food Programme (WFP), Sierra Leone.

List additional implementing partners, specify the type of organization (Government, INGO, local CSO):
    a. **Government Ministries**
Lead Ministry:
In Liberia: Ministry of Internal Affairs,
In Sierra Leone: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Supporting Ministries:
In Liberia: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth and Sports
In Sierra Leone: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Youth Affairs

    b. **State Entities and Local Institutions**
In Liberia:
Liberia Immigration Service (LIS),
Forestry Development Authority (FDA)
Liberia Peacebuilding Office

In Sierra Leone:
Sierra Leone Immigration Department
Forest Division of the Ministry of Environment
Office of National Security (ONS)
National Revenue Authority (NRA)
National Protected Area Authority (NPAA)

    c. **National Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)**

In Liberia:
Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)
Talking Drum Studio (TDS)

In Sierra Leone:
Gola Rainforest Conservation Limited by Guarantee (GRC-LG)
Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL)
Talking Drum Studio (TDS)
Green Scenery
Namati

d. Regional and international entities/ agencies
Mano River Union, ECOWAS, African Development Bank, UNFPA, OHCHR, FAO, UNDP, UNWOMEN, EU

Project duration in months[1] [2]: 30 months

Geographic zones (within the country) for project implementation:

In Liberia: **Tewor District & Porpka District** in Grand Cape Mount County and **Kongba District** in Gbarpolu County

In Sierra Leone: **Makpele chiefdom** in Pujehun district (Southern Province) and **Nomo Chiefdom** in Kenema district (Eastern Province)

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

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):
IOM Liberia: $1,485,507
IOM Sierra Leone: $920,095
WFP Liberia: $797,199
WFP Sierra Leone: $797,199
Total: $ 4,000,000

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

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[1] Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 24 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.
[2] The official project start date will be the date of the first project budget transfer by MPTFO to the recipient organization(s), as per the MPTFO Gateway page.
[3] Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Gender Promotion Initiative
[4] Check this box only if the project was approved under PBF's special call for proposals, the Youth Promotion Initiative

PBF 1st tranche (70 %):	PBF 2nd tranche* (30 %):	PBF 3rd tranche* (_%): N/A
IOM LR: $1,039,855	IOM LR: $445,652	
IOM SL: $644,066	IOM SL: $276,028	
WFP LR: $558,039	WFP LR: $239,160	
WFP SL: $558,039	WFP SL: $239,160	
Total: $2,800,000.00	Total: $1,200,000.00	

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

GOLA-REAP - Resilience, Empowerment, Access and Peacebuilding along Liberia and Sierra Leone border is dedicated to fostering strengthened relationships between local communities, forest rangers, and border authorities in the Gola Forest landscape along the Liberia and Sierra Leone borders. By enhancing collaboration and trust, the project enables the prevention and peaceful resolution of community conflicts and advances sustainable resource management on each side of the border region of Liberia and Sierra Leone and at the cross-border level. Furthermore, it empowers disempowered youth in their communities by promoting climate-smart agriculture and engagement in local governance, thereby cultivating resilience, and deterring their involvement in illicit activities.

Summarize the in-country project consultation process prior to submission to PBSO, including with the PBF Steering Committee, civil society (including any women and youth organizations) and stakeholder communities (including women, youth and marginalized groups):

The present project has been designed collaboratively by IOM and WFP, with the input of the Offices of the UN Resident Coordinator in each country, the expected implementing partners and with extensive consultation amongst key stakeholders. A thorough project consultation process was conducted in Liberia and Sierra Leone to understand the context, the drivers of conflict and peace, as well as identify entry points for programming and engaging of key national and local stakeholders in dialogue and analysis – an important first step to foster national ownership.

At the onset, a joint field assessment by IOM and WPF was conducted in Liberia in Grand Cape Mount County (Tewor and Porkpa Districts) and Lofa County (Foya, Kolahun and Vahun Districts) while in Sierra Leone, the assessment was conducted in Kailahun District (Kissi Tongi, Kissi Teng and Upper Bambara Chiefdoms), Kenema District (Nomo and Tunkia Chiefdoms) and Pujehun District (Sorogbema Chiefdom). The assessment, assisted by the Talking Drum Studio, was held in April and May 2023. In total, 287 representatives of national and local authorities, national institutions, and civil society organizations (CSOs) were consulted through focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs).

Following the submission of the concept note to PBF, IOM and WFP deepened their analysis through further consultations with key stakeholders at the capital level and at the Liberian border post of Bo Waterside in October 2023. In addition, two half-day conflict analysis workshops were conducted in Freetown and Monrovia respectively with the direct recipient organizations and two CSOs (Green Scenery and TDS) in Sierra Leone and a group of 17 national and international stakeholders in Liberia. Based on these consultations, a one-day project design workshop was organized in Monrovia, with representatives of IOM and WFP from both countries.

Overall, a large variety of stakeholders were engaged in the *field consultation process*, consisting of community representatives (master farmers; bike riders union representatives; women leaders

(mummy queens); youth leaders; town chiefs; religious leaders (Imams and Pastors); market chairladies; and locally-based government officials from Immigration, Customs, Port Health, Sanitation, National Revenue Authority, Office of National Security, Police and the Armed Forces, Forest Development Authority (FDA) and local government administration. In Liberia, consultations were also held with CSOs, such as the Society for the Conservation of Nature (SNCL), West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), and women and youth organizations, while in Sierra Leone, consultations were held with the Gola Rainforest Conversation Limited by Guarantee (GRCLG), and other women and youth-community based organizations.

At the *capital level*, a series of KIIs were held with the Peacebuilding Offices and the Ministries of Internal Affairs of Liberia and Sierra Leone respectively, as well as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Kofi Annan Institute for Peace Transformation (KAIPT Liberia), Talking Drums Studio of Liberia and Sierra Leone, Platform for Dialogue and Peace (P4DP Liberia), Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD Liberia), Green Scenery and Namati (Sierra Leone) and regional organizations, such as ECOWAS, Mano River Union (MRU), African Development Bank, were also consulted. To build on learning from previous and on-going initiatives, as well as encourage mutually reinforcing complementarities and gaps filling, UN Agencies (UNDP, UNWOMEN, OHCHR, FAO, PBSO, Spotlight Initiative), offices of the European Union and in both countries as well as Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (AEDE Liberia) and Ecosys (Sierra Leone) were engaged as part of effort in promoting partnership.

Project Gender Marker score[5]: 2
Specify 40% and $1,615,100 of total project budget allocated to activities in pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment:

***Briefly* explain through which major intervention(s) the project will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment [6]:**
The project takes a comprehensive mainstreaming approach to gender equality and women's empowerment, as reflected in its Gender Marker Score of 2. Women's narratives and experiences will be actively incorporated into monitoring tools, perception surveys, endline survey and the final evaluation. The project deliberately targets both men and women, setting a minimum engagement target of 40% for women across all activities. Notwithstanding, the project's commitment to women's empowerment will extend beyond numerical targets through actively engaging women in decision-making processes and ensuring their representation in key roles within Community Management Associations (CMAs), Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs). Additionally, the project will promote gender-sensitive agricultural practices, recognizing the vital role women play in food production. Specific activities, such as promoting young women-led organic compost enterprises and ensuring women's active participation in conflict resolution mechanisms will directly address barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment. The project systematically mainstreams gender considerations in every activity, acknowledging and mitigating gender-specific risks. To combat patriarchal norms which limit women's access to resources and decision-making platforms, the majority of the project's activities which are directly implemented in the communities will have a minimum engagement

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[5] **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and allocate at least 80% of the total project budget to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)
Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective and allocate between 30 and 79% of the total project budget to GEWE.
Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 30% of the total budget for GEWE)
[6] Please consult the **PBF Guidance Note on Gender Marker Calculations and Gender-responsive Peacebuilding**

target of 50% women, with one activity (2.1.6) which will focus 100% on women's economic and social empowerment. The project will also engage key stakeholders, such as local leaders, border officials and forest rangers, in awareness raising activities that emphasize the important role women play in peacebuilding and community development to ensure that there is a gender-inclusive narrative which counters the patriarchal norms and encourages women's participation in decision making platforms.

Project Risk Marker score[7]: __1___

Is the project piloting new approaches: Yes ☒ **No** ☐
Does the project design incorporate climate, peace and security related considerations:
Yes ☒ ☐

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

If applicable, SDCF/**UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes:
Liberia: Outcome 2 (Sustainable Economic Development - Diversified and inclusive economic growth; sustainable agriculture, food security, job creation; and resilience to climate change and natural disasters) and Outcome 3 (Sustaining Peace and Security - Consolidated and sustainable peace; enhanced social cohesion, rule of law and human rights)
Sierra Leone: Outcome Area 1 (Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, and Climate Resilience)

Sustainable Development Goal(s) and Target(s) to which the project contributes:
SDGs 2.3, 2.4, 10.3, 15.1, 15.7, 16.1.

Type of submission:	If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:
☒ **New project** ☐ **Project amendment**	**Extension of duration:** ☐ Additional duration in months (number of months and new end date): **Change of project outcome/ scope:** ☐ **Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:** ☐ **Additional PBF budget:** ☐ Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX **Brief justification for amendment:** *Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.*

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[7] **Risk marker 0** = low risk to achieving outcomes
Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes
Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes
[8] **PBF Focus Areas** are:
(1.1) SSR, (1.2) Rule of Law; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;
(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management.
(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services
(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including PBF Secretariats)

PROJECT SIGNATURES:

Recipient Organization(s)*	Recipient Organization(s)
Name of Representative Ana Fonseca Signature Name of Agency: International Migration (IOM) Liberia Date & Seal	Name of Representative Christos Dorian Christodoulides Signature Name of Agency: International Organization for Migration (IOM) Sierra Leone Date & Seal
Recipient Organization(s) Name of Representative Dr. Alion Diongue Signature Name of Agency: World Food Programme (WFP) Liberia Date & Seal 19-06-2024	Recipient Organization(s) Name of Representative Yvonne Forsen Signature Name of Agency: World Food Programme (WFP) Sierra Leone Date & Seal 21-06-2024
Head of UN Country Team Name of Representative Christine Umutoni Signature Title: United Nations Resident Coordinator Date & Seal 24/06/2024	Head of UN Country Team Name of Representative Seraphine Wakana Signature Title: United Nations Resident Coordinator Date & Seal 25/06/2024
Representative of National Authorities Name of Government Counterpart Hon. Francis S. Nyumalin Sr. Signature Title: Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Liberia Date & Seal 4-7-2024	Representative of National Authorities Name of Government Counterpart Major General (Rtd) David T.O Tahna Signature Title: Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone Date & Seal 09/7/2024

Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)
Elizabeth Spehar Signature Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Date & Seal 24 July 2024

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* 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 gender-responsive **conflict analysis findings** as they relate to this project.

Since the civil wars officially ended in Sierra Leone (1991-2002) and in Liberia (1989-2003), both nations have successfully conducted peaceful democratic elections, thus restoring a measure of trust in the institutions of government and between the different communities, although various fragilities continue to exist and affect overall peace and stability. Notably, Liberia concluded on 10 November 2023 an overall peaceful electoral process culminating in the incumbent President George Weah's concession to President-Elect Joseph Boakai. These were the fourth general elections since the end of the civil war in 2003, and the first since the closure of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in 2018. Conversely, in Sierra Leone, the 24 June 2023 multi-tier elections saw President Julius Maada Bio declared the winner by the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) for a second term, although the election result was disputed by the main opposition party, the All People's Congress (APC). Despite the impasse and some instances of violence, on 18 October, the Government of Sierra Leone and APC signed an "Agreement for National Unity" to end the four-month long post-election stalemate. However, on 26 November 2023, an attempted coup took place which entailed an attack on the military barracks' armouries near the President's lodge and other locations, including the main prisons in Freetown with gunshots and explosions across the capital. The media reported at least 19 people resulted killed, weapons and ammunitions raided, and over 1,890 inmates freed. In the aftermath of the attempted coup, 48 soldiers and 5 police personnel were dismissed for the connection to the event.[9] A citywide curfew was put in place for 2 weeks and was gradually lifted until the security situation became calm. Criminal trials against the alleged culprits are ongoing.

The land boundary between the two countries spans approximately 299 km and is absent of actual formal border disputes. It encompasses several regions, including Kailahun (15 chiefdoms), Pujehun (14 chiefdoms) and Kenema (16 chiefdoms) Districts in Sierra Leone, as well as Lofa (6 districts), Gbarpolu (6 district) Grand Cape Mount (5 district) Counties in Liberia. Importantly, the region is also home to the vast and biodiverse Gola Forest, an ecological reserve spanning approximately 350,000 hectares. It is a crucial part of the highly vulnerable Upper Guinea Forest of West Africa that transverses the boundaries of Sierra Leone (eastern and southern provinces) and Liberia (northeastern region) along the Mano River. The Gola Forest serves as a significant habitat for various endangered species and plays a pivotal role in preserving the region's rich biodiversity. The major livelihood activities of the inhabitants in this vicinity are subsistence farming, hunting and small-scale trading including cross-border trade mostly carried out by women and youth. This critical yet largely informal sector encourages entrepreneurship and regional trade and contributes to food security and promotion of income and employment opportunities for financially deprived households and women in these communities.

The Gola landscape, named "Transboundary Peace Park" since 2010, encompasses Sierra Leone's Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) spanning 85,000 Ha across Kailahun, Kenema, and Pujehun districts, and Liberia's Gola Forest National Park covering 88,000Ha across Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu counties. It is managed by the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security of Sierra Leone, and the Forestry Development Authority of Liberia, with the operational support of the Gola Rainforest Conservation Limited by Guarantee (GRC-LG) in Sierra

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[9] Aftermath of November 26, 2023 Failed Attempted Coup: 48 Soldiers, 5 Police personnel dismissed - AYV Media Empire Sierra Leone, London, Ghana and Africa News Channel (ayvnews.com)

Leone and the Society for Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) in Liberia. Adjacent forest-edge communities rely on the buffer zones for their livelihood activities. Although the demarcation and management of these protected areas are governed by laws,[10] their enforcement faces various challenges. Outdated laws, lack of awareness among communities, and the absence of necessary by-laws for community forest management impede effective law enforcement. Consequently, the capacity of rangers and border officials to uphold these laws is significantly weakened.

The project design consultations repeatedly highlighted the generally cohesive nature of the Liberia and Sierra Leone border zones, emphasizing the positive and cordial relationship maintained by communities on both sides. Shared cultural practices, strong cross-border ethnic ties, intertwined trade routes and language similarities (these communities communicate using Sierra Leone Krio and Liberian Pidgin English due to their linguistic similarities) have fostered a profound sense of interdependence and mutual understanding among the populations. For example, the Kissi community in Liberia shares strong ethnic connections with their counterparts of Sierra Leone. Similarly, the Mendes have kinship relations with communities across both sides of the border, illustrating the deep-rooted cultural and social bonds between these neighbouring countries. The degree of social cohesion is evidenced by the frequent inter-marriages within the communities, the prevalence of cross-border activities including trade and the daily crossing on both sides of the border by children for educational purposes.

However, despite the prevailing relative peace, many of the conflict dynamics that originally fuelled the civil wars, such as resource competition, weak local governance systems, corruption, and youth unemployment, are still present in Sierra Leone and Liberia border areas and - if not managed properly and preventively, with all the Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity precautions and with a coordinated approach on both sides of the border - risk destabilizing these communities. The 2022 MRU Fragility Study developed by the African Development Bank, the Mano River Union Secretariat, and the United Nations, explains that the contemporary situations in countries in the Mano River region (including Sierra Leone and Liberia) increasingly mirror the situations leading up to the previous civil wars in the subregion, thereby highlighting the countries' fragility and susceptibility towards conflict.[11] The study explains that a critical message of the post-war analyses was to put in place mechanisms that could identify and engage tensions in society before they escalated into unmanageable conflict. However, the report identifies that there is a lack of adequately resourced social cohesion efforts within countries and across the subregion.[12] Below is the outline of the major sources of tensions or challenges to social cohesion and security in the border zones of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Illegal activities and their environmental impact
According to the Global Organized Crime Index (OC Index) 2023[13], porous borders and weaknesses in border management in both countries have contributed to the proliferation of illegal activities and trafficking. These activities encompass various forms of trafficking (human, drug and counterfeit goods like medicines, cosmetics) that take place across the borders of Liberia and Sierra Leone. There is also uncontrolled poaching of wild animals, illegal mining and logging around and within the reserved forest, leading to detrimental impacts on the countries' natural resources.[14] The trade between

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[10] Sierra Leone's Wildlife Conservation Law of 1972 and the Liberia's National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Management Bill of 2016.

[11] Ganson, B., Kamara, A., Nyei, I. A.-b., Traore, T., & Yao-Yao, A. C. (December 2022). *Fragility and Resilience in the Mano River Union Subregion: Consolidating Peace Dividends Amid Persistent Challenges.* New York: The African Development Bank; the Mano River Union Secretariat; and the United Nations.

[12] Ibid (p.9)

[13] Global Organized Crime Index. 2023. Comparison of Criminalities between Sierra Leone and Liberia - The Organized Crime Index (ocindex.net). Available on: https://ocindex.net/2023/country/sierra_leone/liberia

[14] ibid. p.3

Liberia and Sierra Leone is particularly robust, while routes extending to Guinea and the Sahel region also play an important role, including on illegal trade. Illegal wildlife trade is also persistent, with both countries serving as source and transit points for this illicit activity. Often smuggled to East Asia through various transit countries, the illicit wildlife market targets illegal harvesting and trafficking of pangolin scales, rare animal parts, and endangered species.[15] Human trafficking and smuggling operations involve collaboration with international gangs, while other international figures dominate both illegal gemstone and diamond trade in Sierra Leone in collaboration with state-embedded actors which contributes.[16]

While not the most mining-prone areas of the two countries, mining for mineral resources (mainly, gold, and diamond) is nonetheless a major income generator in the border zones. Due to inadequate government regulation and widespread poverty, the OC Index (p.3) emphasizes that smuggling of gold and diamonds persist in both countries, particularly in the case of artisanal and small-scale mining. Most of the artisanal mining activities (mining, buying, selling, and exporting) operate through informal networks that bypass formal supply chains, with limited amounts entering local communities and some being smuggled into neighbouring countries such as Guinea, driven by higher prices.[17] Local communities often justify their participation in these artisanal mining activities as a means of reclaiming benefits from their own resources, which are often exploited by foreign companies. Based on the OC Index (p.3), gold and diamonds are smuggled across borders, with uncontrolled flows of transport on foot and in vehicles. Control over the gold and diamond sectors by both governments is weak, marked by nepotism and political indifference.[18] Mining is also one of the major sources of threat for biodiversity conservation and forest resources management in the Gola landscape. According to information received from focus group discussions and key informant interviews, mining has been one of the key drivers of conflict between forest management authorities and communities.

Furthermore, Liberia faces a critical issue with deforestation, with the country being ranked as experiencing the 10th largest increase in forest loss worldwide,[19] which underscores the urgent need for effective forest management and conservation measures. According to the OC Index (p.2), illegal logging and timber smuggling networks have also been an enduring challenge to Sierra Leone and have become a pervasive industry in Liberia, allegedly involving a network of actors such as loggers and shipping companies.[20] In particular, the Gola Rainforest National Park faces a critical threat posed by illegal rosewood logging, a persistent practice despite the African trade of rosewood being banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora since June 2022.[21] The consultations during the design of the project have underscored the prevalence of cross-border smuggling, with transit from one country to the other, although available data on this activity is limited. Despite both governments efforts to combat the issue, allegations of political connections are often associated with this illicit practice, according to the OC Index (p.2), further exacerbating the challenges faced in curbing this destructive practice. The environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources also intensify the vulnerability of the region to the impacts of climate change,

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[15] ibid. p.3
[16] ibid. p.2
[17] ibid. p.3
[18] Global Organized Crime Index 2023. Comparison of Criminalities between Sierra Leone and Liberia. Available on: https://ocindex.net/2023/country/sierra_leone/liberia
[19] World Resources Institute (WRI), Forest Pulse Report, 2022. Available on : https://research.wri.org/gfr/latest-analysis-deforestation-trends?utm_campaign=treecoverloss2022&utm_medium=bitly&utm_source=GFWTwitter.
[20] Global Organized Crime Index 2023. Comparison of Criminalities between Sierra Leone and Liberia. Available on: https://ocindex.net/2023/country/sierra_leone/liberia
[21] ibid. p.3

amplifying the risks of resource scarcity, displacement, and heightened competition and conflict for essential resources.[22]

Weak cross-border cooperation and law enforcement and lack of community trust
There are limited mechanisms for data and intelligence gathering and sharing between border officials and rangers in Liberia and Sierra Leone. In 2020, the Governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia signed an amended Memorandum of Understanding (MoU),[23] renewing their commitment to jointly manage the trans-boundary Gola Peace Park. While the MoU provides agreement for cooperation in management, research, protection, and conservation of the Greater Gola landscape across the two countries, the progress in its implementation has been slow since the initial signing of the MoU in 2010 when the Park was created. The delay in formalizing the Gola Forest National Park in Liberia since 2016 was due to weak capacities and a legal framework that does not facilitate "an ease of passage" to transboundary staff. [24]

Similarly, the operationalization of the existing frameworks for national and cross-border security patrols, including immigration officials, is hindered by resource constraints (poorly equipped and staffed border posts) and the lack of necessary skills, motivation, and incentives. Although efforts have been initiated to establish a joint border structure in Bo Waterside/Jendema to facilitate border crossing formalities and controls and reduce the cost and time spent at land borders between Member States by bringing together officials from neighbouring countries to conduct simultaneous and joint controls to expedite movement, progress has been slow. Since its approval nine years ago, no construction work has commenced.[25]

The prevailing inadequacies in border management capacity, coupled with a weak implementation of the legal framework,[26] have led to a lack of community engagement and a growing sense of distrust among the communities toward local authorities, border officials, and rangers responsible for protecting the Gola landscape. This lack of trust is rooted in the perception that their activities are often seen as restrictive and constraining to the livelihoods of the local communities, exacerbated by a lack of transparency and community participation in decision-making processes related to resource management and conservation efforts. Unchecked illegal smuggling, coupled with the prevailing lack of trust in law enforcement has the potential to escalate tensions and foster conflicts between security officials and communities, as well as among communities and with external actors.

Improving the capacities of immigration border officials and forest rangers to facilitate the implementation of customs and immigration laws in border areas through joint (transboundary) coordination can foster trust with communities and confidence in rule of law mechanisms. This approach can also enhance the understanding of the critical role of preserving the forest for community resilience. The interlinked consequences of uncontrolled activities, such as illegal logging, poaching, and mining, have a compounding effect on the region's overall stability and sustainability. Indeed,

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[22] Comparison of Criminalities between Sierra Leone and Liberia - The Organized Crime Index (ocindex.net). https://ocindex.net/2023/country/sierra_leone/liberia
[23] Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of Liberia on the Cooperation in Management, Research, Protection and Conservation of the Greater Gola Transboundary Peace Park (May 2011, revised in 2020).
[24] Despite it being provided by the 15th Protocol to the MRU Declaration on Cooperation on Defence, Security, Internal Affairs, and Foreign Affairs.
[25] Sierra Leone And Liberia Hand Over Sites To The Ecowas Commission For The Detailed Engineering Design & Construction Of A Joint Border Post At The Jendema-Bo Waterside Border | Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). https://www.ecowas.int/sierra-leone-and-liberia-hand-over-sites-to-the-ecowas-commission-for-the-detailed-engineering-design-construction-of-a-joint-border-post-at-the-jendema-bo-waterside-border/
[26] Global Organized Crime Index 2023. Comparison of Criminalities between Sierra Leone and Liberia, (p.8). Available on: https://ocindex.net/2023/country/sierra_leone/liberia

they have the potential to not only disrupt the ecological balance and break down the forest ecosystem but also directly affect the socio-economic fabric and well-being of the communities residing in the area. The environmental degradation caused by these activities contributes to the depletion of natural habitats, leading to a decline in biodiversity and the disruption of essential ecosystems, which are crucial for the communities' resilience. These escalating trends pose significant risks, including heightened vulnerability to natural disasters and diseases (noting that both countries are already ranking among the world's most vulnerable nations to climate change impacts[27]), loss of livelihood, food insecurity, and increased pressure leading to migration and heightened risk of (violent) conflicts.

While the conflict analysis indicates limited environmental impact and deforestation at present, the potential for these issues to emerge as significant conflict drivers is a looming threat. The unchecked exploitation of natural resources such as timber (especially rosewood) and minerals (diamond, gold) could rapidly accelerate environmental degradation, leading to long-term consequences for the communities. Anticipating and addressing these potential impacts are critical for preserving the current state of peace and preventing future conflicts.

Challenges in sustainable agricultural practices and land use conflict
Liberia and Sierra Leone rank 33rd and 51st most fragile out of 178 countries on the Fragile States Index for 2023, respectively. The most acute prevalence of poverty is observed in rural areas, attributed largely to the inadequate infrastructure for vital services such as health, education, and transportation.[28] This trend is particularly visible in the border regions where socio-economic development is impeded by these factors.

The consultations highlighted unequal access to livelihood opportunities as a key cause of vulnerability and a push factor towards illegal activities. This disparity is largely shaped by the management of land resources and the lack of viable alternative livelihood options. This cements the divide between landowners and non-landowners, often perpetuated through connections with local leaders and traditional practices that exclude youth and women from the decision-making processes, thus amplifying existing social inequalities within the communities.

Agriculture, which serves as the main source of income in the border areas between Liberia and Sierra Leone, faces significant obstacles. Beyond the value chains constraints at the production and processing levels (lack of quality seeds and processing tools/ machines coupled with a lack of capacity and awareness of sustainable practices), the major challenges faced are due to land constraints and competition within and around protected areas. These challenges are further exacerbated by the increasing scarcity of available land, the lack of clear land tenure systems, leading to disputes over land ownership and usage rights as well as the impact of climate change. In addition, the vital role that women play in agricultural activities, including planting, weeding, harvesting, and processing crops, is often marginalized or disregarded. As a result, their rights may be unrecognized or insecure, creating barriers to their access to and management of land resources. The elderly men in these communities own the farmlands and manage the growth and sale of cash crops such as cocoa. The young men in the communities work on the farmlands as hired hands but community consultations showed that there was a gap in agricultural labour.

According to the World Bank, about 70% of the households in Liberia collect forest products, such as fuelwood, bushmeat, shelter materials, etc. for self-consumption and/or for sale. 43 percent of

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[27] With scores of 34 and 37 on the 2021 ND-GAIN Country Index, Liberia, and Sierra Leone rank 177 and 166, respectively, out of 185 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/
[28] Herbert, S. (2014). *Conflict Analysis of Liberia.* Birmingham: University of Birmingham.

households reported using forest products to recover from shocks and two-thirds that experienced food insecurity relied on forest products to meet their needs. [29] Another growing concern raised by communities is the encroachment of wildlife into farmland which constitute a growing source of tensions. Communities suffer revenue losses due to crop destruction in the buffer zones while it also poses a threat to the biodiversity that forest rangers are dedicated to preserving. Significantly, buffer zones around the National Parks perform a critical function to conserve the forest by enabling the surrounding communities to sustainably derive forest products and engage in agricultural livelihoods without exploiting the protected forest. However, as demand for resources grows and population pressures increases, competition for these resources intensifies, setting the stage for potential conflicts. In these communities, still often governed by customary law, historical claims over specific pieces of land further complicate the scenario.

Compounding these challenges is the low awareness among citizens about existing laws and policies, hindering their ability to hold decision-makers accountable. While a legal framework exists in the Gola landscape, degradation is primarily a result of inadequate enforcement rather than the absence of laws. Public understanding of the importance of the Gola National Park and associated regulations is limited, creating tensions and resentment between community members and forest management institutions when it comes to the use of forest resources by the communities, potentially escalating into conflict.

Consequently, the reluctance of communities to recognize and respect the laws of the protected areas gives rise to occasional disputes between local communities and authorities over ownership and usage. These disagreements often arise among local communities' members, who hold differing views on land utilization, such as protection versus exploitation or the issuance of licences for mining activities. The growing concerns among these actors underscore the mounting tensions. In addition, the impacts of climate change, such as unpredictable weather patterns further exacerbate the strain on land resources, amplifying the potential for conflicts and posing significant challenges to the sustainability of local communities.

While the importance of sustainable land use for livelihood has been stressed by the consulted communities, concerns have also been raised regarding tensions stemming from licences granted to mining companies by government through the Ministry of Mines and Energy to exploit the land for mining purposes. The process typically involves applications from interested companies, followed by evaluations of their proposals, environmental impact studies, and consultations with relevant stakeholders, including local communities. However, the extent to which these processes are transparent and inclusive of community input can vary, and concerns have been raised about the lack of meaningful consultation and the potential for corruption or favouritism in the licensing process, fuelling the mistrust between community members and forest management officials in the licensing process.

Moreover, disagreements have arisen between local communities and the GNP rangers regarding access to what is seen by community members as essential forest products (ranging from fuelwood to shelter), the demarcation and use of land near protected areas. While conservationists advocate for rather strict protection measures, local communities push for more flexible land use policies to support their agricultural activities and the development of infrastructure that facilitates the transportation of produce to markets, thereby reducing the high-post harvest losses and limited access to markets due to inadequate roads, irrigation facilities and storage capacities. For instance, in Tigbema (Tunkia Chiefdom, Kenema District, Sierra Leone), a conflict emerged over the construction of an access road that the community sought to build through parts of the protected areas without any prior

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[29] Liberia: Understanding people's dependence on forests (worldbank.org).

environmental impact assessment. Although the road was ultimately not constructed and trees replanted where they were cut down, the relationship between GRNP and the community was tarnished, and a certain level of mistrust continues to prevail. Similar conflicts concerning access roads, such as the one reported in Wonde Chiefdom (Bo District, Sierra Leone) in June 2023, are not uncommon. Indeed, discussions with community members from Nomo Chiefdom (Kenema District, Sierra Leone) and the corresponding Mano River Kongo (Porkpa Chiefdom, Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia), underscored the prevailing mistrust toward forest management officials, whose interventions to protect the Gola landscape according to the laws were perceived as detrimental to local cultivation practices. Even existing conflict mitigation and livelihood support measures, such as the REDD+ project's carbon credit scheme[30], fall short of their intended impact, as community members harbour suspicions that these initiatives predominantly benefit customary leaders, and fail to empower communities to develop climate-smart farming activities or alternative livelihood avenues benefiting the broader community.

Youth unemployment and vulnerability
The livelihood in the border area of Sierra Leone and Liberia is predominantly reliant on agriculture, including subsistence farming and small-scale agricultural activities. Communities often engage in rain-fed subsistence farming in the cultivation of rice, cassava, cocoa, and various vegetables which serve as the primary source of sustenance and income. Exploring alternative livelihood avenues is a challenge intricately tied to socio-economic and education factors. A significant gap prevails in the acquisition of essential skills among youth, limiting their capacity to pursue alternative livelihood options that demand specialized skills and expertise, such as nursing, community health, or financial literacy and small business management. The absence of vocational training programs tailored to the local market and of integration of community in the supply chain of logging/ mining companies implemented in the border region contributes to a mismatch between the skills required (such as driving, welding, plumbing, electricity, mechanics, etc.) by the private companies in the region and the skills possessed by the youth. This situation compels companies to recruit labour from outside the host communities, impeding sustainable development and leaving the local women and youth vulnerable and frustrated. Moreover, the prevalence of gender-based disparities further exacerbates the challenges faced by young women in accessing educational and economic opportunities, thereby limiting their participation in non-traditional sectors. Deep-rooted cultural norms and stereotypes often confine Liberian and Sierra Leone women to roles within the household and traditional agricultural activities, such as cultivation and harvesting, processing of agricultural products, livestock management, seed preservation, etc., impeding their ability to acquire the necessary skills and resources for exploring diverse livelihood options.

These dynamics culminate in soaring unemployment rates, carrying a myriad of risks and consequences that significantly heighten the potential for violent conflict. In Sierra Leone, according to the Ministry of Youth Affairs, about 60% of its people aged below 35 years old are underemployed or unemployed, and 50% illiterate or unskilled. As for Liberia, as high as about 85% of the population aged 15-35 are unemployed[31]. The stakeholders consulted highlighted the risks related to social unrest and irregular emigration that stem from the sense of disillusionment, anger and exclusion experienced by marginalized groups, particularly youth and women. This frustration arises from traditional practices and connections with local leaders that often result in the unequal allocation of the limited available resources, favouring landowners (older community dwellers), without meaningful inclusion of the youth and women groups in the decision-making processes. This unequal distribution of

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[30] The REDD+ project's carbon credit scheme is an international initiative launched in 2005. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, it encourages local communities and stakeholders to conserve and sustainably manage their forest resources by offering financial compensation in the form of carbon credits for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through forest conversation and reforestation efforts.
[31] ILO: Global Employment Trends for Youth.

resources exacerbates social inequalities within the communities, creating a profound sense of injustice. Indeed, deprived of the required skills and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, young men are increasingly drawn to illegal activities (incl. logging, mining, poaching), irregular migration and, to a lesser extent, trafficking networks. Alternatively, some succumb to petty crimes, with theft becoming a means of survival, often exacerbated by the intake of drugs highlighted by many stakeholders consulted.

In contrast, young women, facing unequal access to livelihood opportunities, frequently turn to cross-border petty trade, which serves as an important income-generating activity for them. However, this involvement also exposes women to various security threats, including harassment, occasionally of a sexual nature, by border officials or bike riders. On both sides of the border, gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious concern. According to UNFPA, approximately 62% of women aged 15-49 report have experienced physical or sexual violence in Sierra Leone, while in Liberia, over a third of women traders (37%) have experienced sexual violence, with 15% having been raped or forced to an exchange of sexual favours.[32] Some are drawn into illicit trade, while others are coerced or enticed into assuming logistical roles within illegal mining activities. This involvement in logistical roles not only exacerbates their vulnerability but also intensifies their exposure to the dangers of exploitation.

In forest-edge communities, agricultural households primarily engage in cash (mainly cocoa) and food (mostly rice) crop farming. On the Sierra Leone side, households engaged in cocoa production have received support from GRNP (seedlings, training, processing), and cocoa produced in forest-edge communities is certified organic. Cocoa plantations are generally owned and cultivated by more senior farmers. Food crop production with high participation of youth is characterised by traditional and low-yielding practices, including shifting (slash and burn) agriculture, contributing to degradation of community forests. Low yields necessitate clearing of larger areas for cultivation. Remoteness of communities contribute to low integration with other agricultural areas and high market prices, contributing to food insecurity. By supporting climate-smart farming opportunities, prioritizing market-driven skills development, fostering an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, integrating communities in the supply chain of private actors operating in the regions and promoting gender-inclusive initiatives, a conducive ecosystem for the youth of the border regions of Sierra Leone and Liberia can be fostered to pursue diverse and sustainable livelihood opportunities beyond traditional sectors.

Capacities for peace
In the bordering region of Sierra Leone and Liberia, various mechanisms for conflict resolution, both within the respective countries and across borders, have been established. Consultations with border officials revealed the existence of a framework for collaboration and intelligence-sharing which translated into a handful of cross-border meetings among officials. The MRU Secretariat established the Joint Peace and Security Confidence Building Units at the borders to oversee policy coordination and implementation. These Joint Border Units are intended to address instability and security issues directly, focusing their activities in the same geographic areas. However, the challenge lies in the scarcity of resources which has prevented the institutionalization of such dialogue mechanism, despite the potential these mechanisms hold in fostering trust and cooperation among border security officials, rangers, and the communities they serve. At the County and District levels, relevant government agencies such as immigration and the forest management departments dispatch officials to work in the local communities. These officials could meaningfully engage with local communities and contribute to the Joint Border Units to promote peace in the region.

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[32] Value Chain Analysis: Women in cross-border trade and the palm oil, cassava, and vegetable value chains in Sierra Leone and Liberia, June 2023, p.19.

At the community level, several initiatives are in place to nurture social cohesion, prevent and resolve conflicts. MRU in collaboration with FDA in Liberia and NPAA in Sierra Leone has established in Gola Forest on both sides, Local Consultative Committees (LCC) to strengthen transboundary cooperation and synergies and ensure the participation of the local communities in activities in the protected Forest Landscape. Nevertheless, their effectiveness is often hampered by insufficient support and the lack of legitimate representation, particularly concerning women and youth. For example, while some localities have Community Management Associations (CMA) tasked with addressing and mediating disputes, the meaningful engagement of women and youth is often constrained by cultural norms and practices that traditionally exclude them from decision-making processes. Despite these challenges, women and youth represent a significant driving force for peacebuilding in the border communities. Women and youth actively participate in social interactions at local and cross-border levels, including through engaging in cross-border economic activities. This gives them the potential to be peace champions by transmitting and diffusing key messages to enhance peaceful coexistence and social cohesion at both local and cross-border levels. Although women were initially excluded from formal peace negotiations where only men were seated, women played crucial roles in advancing peace efforts, during the civil wars in both countries. Women emerged as important peacemakers, advocating behind the scenes in support of peace negotiations, speaking out against violence, and actively engaging in local peace initiatives.[33] Consultations with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as the Women and Children Development Association of Liberia (WOCDAL), led by women, and the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), present in both countries, emphasized the role of women and youth as drivers for peace in the forest edged communities. The project will synergize efforts with these CSOs to promote community ownership and ensure that women and youth are engaged in all of the project's activities.
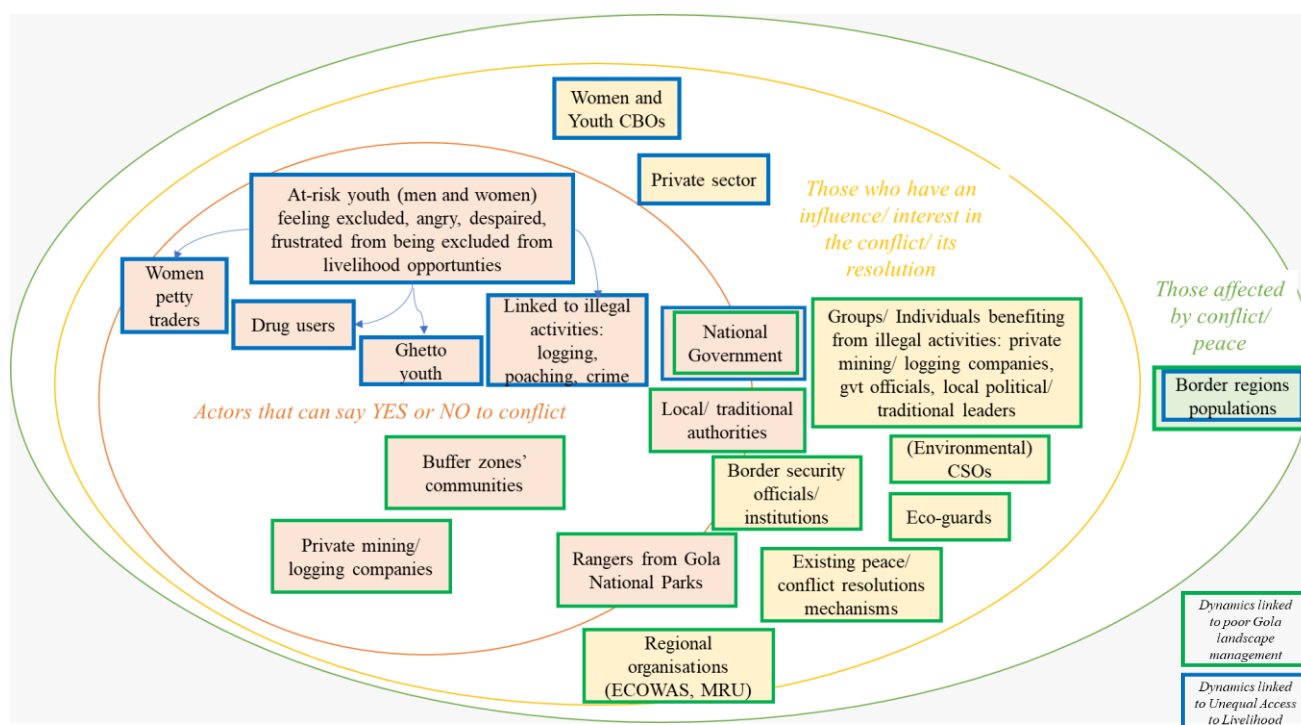
In Sierra Leone, the Gola Rainforest National Park appointed three Community Undercover Informants (CUIs) to disclose any violations within the park to rangers. Additionally, in 14 communities within Malema chiefdom (Kailahun District, Sierra Leone), Community Resource User Groups provide guidance on boundary issues and report illegal activities. The Community Undercover Informants and Community Resource Group Members are trained by the GRNP to be able to effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities. Similarly, in Liberia, the Forestry Development Agency (FDA) and SCNL, in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation-(WCF) successfully implemented a program involving a network of 150 Community Eco Guards (CEGs), including 62 women. These volunteers work in collaboration with rangers and while they do not carry weapons or act as law enforcers, their essential roles and responsibilities are outlined in TORs. They include reporting illegal activities, conducting biomonitoring, assessing threats, gathering intelligence, and supporting community engagements, education and awareness-raising.

Stakeholders' mapping
In analysing the actors within the context of the shared border region between Sierra Leone and Liberia, it is evident that various interests and capacities drive both conflict and peace dynamics which need to be taken into account in the implementation approach. Below is a visual representation of the roles key individuals/ groups can play in reducing or fuelling the main conflict factors identified, namely (i) the weak management of the Gola landscape natural resources and (ii) the unequal access

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[33] Yasmin Jusu-Sheriff. March 2013. Accord Insight Issue 1: Women and peacebuilding. Available on: https://www.c-r.org/accord/women-and-peacebuilding-insight/case-study-sierra-leone

to livelihood opportunities. Kindly note that this representation is not an exhaustive representation of the existing drivers and connectors.

b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**[34]**,** how it ensures **national ownership**.

In 2020, the Governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia through their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs signed an amended MOU, reaffirming their commitment to jointly manage the trans-boundary Gola Peace Park, which comprises the Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone and the Gola Forest National Park in Liberia. This document facilitates cooperation in management, research, protection, and conservation of the Greater Gola landscape across the two countries.

At the national level, this project aligns with Section 4.2, "*Ending Fragility and Root Causes of Conflict*" under Pillar 3: *Sustaining the Peace*, of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018-2023.[35] In Sierra Leone, the project contributes to achieving Section 4.1, "*Political Development for National Cohesion*" under Cluster 4: *Governance and Accountability for Results,* Section 6.1, *"Youth Entrepreneurship (employment and empowerment)"* under Cluster 6: *Youth Empowerment, Sports and Migration* and Section 7.1, "*Building national environmental resilience*" and 7.2 "*Forestry management and wetland conservation*" under Cluster 7: *Addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience* of Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023.[36]

To support the United Nations political engagement strategy in Liberia, the project is directly linked to 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,*

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[34] Including national gender and youth strategies and commitments, such as a National Action Plan on 1325, a National Youth Policy etc.
[35] Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) (mfdp.gov.lr)
[36] Sierra Leone: Economic Development Documents-National Development Plan, 2019-23 (imf.org)

equitable justice and security services, capable of promoting and protecting the human rights of all" of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020-2024).[37] To contribute to the United Nations political engagement strategy in Sierra Leone, the project aligns with Outcome Area 2: Transformational Governance: *"By 2023, people in Sierra Leone benefit from more gender and youth responsive institutions that are innovative, accountable, and transparent at all levels and can better advance respect for human rights and the rule of law, equity, peaceful coexistence, and the protection of boys and girls, women and men including those with disabilities"* of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020-2023)[38].

The project is also in line with the regional and sub-regional policies on security sector reform, regional and cross-border protocols from the African Union (AU), ECOWAS and the Mano River Union (MRU). In the case of the MRU, the (Revised) 15th Protocol on Cooperation on Peace, Security and Defence, which calls for the creation of a joint security committee and other MRU mechanisms to monitor border security and related issues. The Africa Union Roadmap on Silencing the Guns by 2020 and the African Peace and Security Architecture, along with the AU Policy on SSR, underscore the importance of community engagement in the reform of the border security institutions and mechanisms. ECOWAS through its Conflict Prevention Framework, Policy on Security Sector Reform and Governance and Protocol on Free Movement and Trans-border Security in West Africa also recognizes the cross-border dimensions of violence (including drugs, arms and human trafficking, terrorism, piracy, and illicit maritime activities). In April and May 2024, ECOWAS launched the National Platforms for the Cross-Border Cooperation Support Programme (ECBCSP 2023-2027) for Liberia and Sierra Leone.[39] The ECBCSP's goal to collaborate with border communities to foster social cohesion, regional integration and sustainable development aligns with this project's overall objective and possible opportunities for collaboration will be explored during the project's implementation.

Lastly, the project is aligned with UNOWAS Mandate 2023[40] which aims to support conflict prevention, peacebuilding, sustaining peace and mediation efforts in the subregion. It seeks to enhance regional and subregional partnerships to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel, particularly with regional and subregional entities such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Mano River Union, the African Development Bank, etc.

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 project represents one of the few cross border peacebuilding initiatives operating within the targeted geographic zones, particularly within the Gola Forest Landscape. This project strategically addresses critical gaps in forest-community mapping, contributing to the prevention of land conflicts and mitigating tensions among communities, local leader and private entities seeking exploitation licenses. Currently, the absence of forest-community mapping leaves communities vulnerable to disputes. Drawing lessons from the successful FAO PBF-funded project 'Creating peaceful societies through women's improved access to management of natural resources, land tenure rights and economic empowerment in Sierra Leone" which ended in 2021, the project will build on its innovative

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[37] United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework (2020-2024) (LIBERIA) | United Nations in Liberia.
[38] United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Sierra Leone - 2020-2023 | United Nations in Sierra Leone
[39] ECOWAS consolidates on cross-border cooperation launches national platforms in Liberia and Sierra Leone | Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
[40] https://unowas.unmissions.org/unowas-mandate

family-owned lands mapping techniques and border demarcation methodologies. By leveraging the lessons learned from this past initiative, the project aims to implement community-driven forest mapping around protected Gola landscape areas.

Furthermore, the project recognizes the existing support for livelihood initiatives from various international partners in the border regions. However, it distinguishes itself by being a peacebuilding project, focusing on engaging those considered hard to reach and crucial for sustaining peace in the region. Employing a 'do-no-harm' approach, the livelihood component specifically targets vulnerable or disempowered youth, men, and women (see section II for more detailed information). This strategic focus ensures the inclusivity of the project, reaching individuals who may otherwise be overlooked. Moreover, by targeting different locations and target groups, the project complements existing initiatives such as the AfDB's BI-BEST, which primarily targets women cross-border traders between Liberia and Sierra Leone in Jendema-Bo Waterside and Koindu-Foya. In doing so, the project expands support to additional underserved areas and contributes to a more comprehensive and integrated approach to peacebuilding in the border regions.

By acknowledging the interconnectedness of communities, rangers, eco-guards, border officials and local authorities within this significant Gola landscape, the project aims to bridge communication gaps and foster collaboration and trust. The transboundary nature of the Gola landscape presents a unique challenge and opportunity for cross-border cooperation. The project, therefore, envisions fostering a more efficient, understanding, cooperative environment among these diverse actors in the targeted project areas that did not yet benefit from comparable support. The project will contribute to support the meetings of the Transboundary Coordination Committee initiated by the EU-PAPFor. Simultaneously, through the facilitation of meetings with Joint Law Enforcement Agencies, the project will address gaps in the community engagement processes and consultations that occur between patrols. Furthermore, the project aims to establish a unique and safe regional platform for reflective and open dialogue, empowering communities' participation and voice, with a focus on sharing experiences, best practices, and lessons learned regarding the multifaceted impacts of illegal gold and diamond mining on the Gola National Park and protected forest areas.

Project name (duration)	Donor and budget	Project focus	Difference from/ complementarity to current proposal
BI-BEST: Build inclusive business ecosystems for stabilization and transformation in the Mano River Union (Liberia and Sierra Leone)

36 months African Development Bank (AfDB) | AfDB $4,250,000 | The empowerment of women traders in cross-border value chains for resilient economic growth and social cohesion | Their geographical focus being different (Koindu, in Sierra Leone – Foya, in Liberia and Jendema, in Sierra Leone - Bo Waterside, in Liberia), no direct overlap is anticipated with this project. Yet, given their focus on cross-border value chains for women, there could be best practices and lessons learned from engaging with women petty-traders and working on cross-border |

			value chains the project could be benefitted from
WABiLED (West African Biodiversity and Low Development)	USAID $49 million	To promote biodiversity conservation and climate-resilient, low emissions development in West Africa (Liberia, Sierra Leone as well as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo)	The project will work closely with the WABiLED project team to ensure that there is complementarity in terms of national capacities strengthening for the improved management of protected areas in the Gola landscape and of support to transboundary cooperation. In addition, the two projects will jointly advocate for the Facilitation of the Free movement of the persons assigned to work in the Gola Forest.
Support Program for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (PAPFor)	EU	To support protected areas and communities to promote better governance and increased participation in forest conservation.	The project will seek to build on the EU-funded PAPFor Community Forest and Land Use Planning and Mapping Project. It will target areas bordering the Gola national park which PAPFor did not reach and engage early on in the project design and implementation with PAPFor implementors CSSL and SCNL to draw lessons learned and best practices. By facilitating meetings between Joint Law Enforcement Agencies, Rangers, Ecoguards, and community members, and by developing and implementing a community engagement and policing action plans, the project seeks to fill gaps in community engagement processes and strengthen conservation efforts in the region.

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 project adopts a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to foster resilience and peace in Liberia and Sierra Leone border areas, specifically the Gola landscape. By supporting more sustainable and inclusive access to land, the project aims to prevent conflict risks arising from illegal activities and unequal access to livelihood opportunities. The approach involves empowering disempowered youth, both men and women, to reduce feelings of neglect and disempowerment. Additionally, to enhance cross-border and Gola landscape management, the project plans to build the capacities for peacebuilding and forest management of various stakeholders, including border officials, the policymakers, forest rangers and eco-guards, local leaders, as well as youth and women. This will be achieved through targeted awareness-building and skill development programs, with the aim of empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills for effective border management, understanding of and decision-making regarding legal frameworks related to forestry, land use, and conflict resolution, sustainable forest management, community leadership, and the economic and social empowerment of youth and women.

Community participation, ownership and empowerment will be central to the project's success, with a focus on fostering trust-based relationships at various levels of governance. Through inclusive community-driven mapping and training programs, coupled with efforts to enhance legal knowledge to revitalize conflict resolution mechanisms, the project strives to empower communities and build resilience. The approach includes amplifying community voices through inclusive community forums; raising awareness through community and ECOWAS radio stations; empowering identified conflict resolution mechanisms to produce information, education, and communication materials in local languages; orchestrating cultural, sports, and economic initiatives with a view to improving peaceful exchanges and social cohesion mechanisms between and within the communities; and supporting locally driven initiatives. These creative media serve as powerful tools for stakeholders' education and awareness due to their unique ability to communicate complex issues in a compelling manner, facilitating communication and understanding between communities, rangers, and border authorities. They contribute to breaking down communication barriers and building bridges between diverse groups. The creative mediums will also be used to raise awareness about the role of women and youth as peacebuilders, contributing to tackling the barriers that hinder their participation in decision making roles in their communities. By fostering collaboration and trust between communities and the authorities, the project seeks to enhance border management capabilities and promote sustainable resource management within the Gola Forest landscape.

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

IF local communities, rangers, eco-guards, and border authorities have the necessary capacities and mechanisms to identify, prevent, and resolve local and cross-border conflicts and tensions around land/forest management and border management, and engage in mutual trust-building and collaboration through inclusive communication and exchanges,

IF border authorities, rangers, and eco-guards are better equipped with tools and their communication and monitoring capacities are improved to facilitate better sharing of information, resources, and responsibilities, fostering a more cohesive and effective approach to managing the Gola Forest landscape,

IF local community members, including youth and women, are involved in identifying the factors preventing full collaboration and the most frequent possible reasons for disagreement, through community engagement and policing approaches on issues related to natural resource management, land mapping, and illegal activities such as drug trafficking, mining, poaching, logging, and smuggling, as well as border management,

IF community members are empowered to identify possible solutions and manage community forests more inclusively and sustainably and the socio-economic resilience of disempowered youth and women is enhanced through climate-smart food production systems leveraging on land leasing agreements for increased economic opportunities,

THEN increased social cohesion can be realized, and local community members, rangers, eco-guards, along with border authorities, will be empowered to contribute to improved cross-border management, Gola landscape conservation, and ultimately mitigate conflicts in the region while promoting peace and sustainability.

BECAUSE policy harmonization and alignment between the two countries will remove institutional barriers and legal obstacles, facilitating smoother cross-border movement and collaboration.

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

The present project seeks to foster resilience and peace in the Sierra Leone and Liberia border areas through more sustainable and inclusive resource management. It employs two complementary strategies: the first focuses on strengthening relationships between law enforcement, rangers, local authorities, and community members for improved border management, preventing conflict risks arising from land use, illegal activities (mining, logging, etc.) and unequal access to livelihood opportunities, while the second facilitates positive engagement of disempowered youth through access to livelihood opportunities. Together these initiatives strive to improve border management, empower local communities, and contribute to the sustainable development of the Gola landscape.

Outcome 1
Strengthened cross-border collaboration between communities, rangers, and border authorities leads to improved cross-border and Gola landscape management

Output 1.1. Collaboration and trust for cross border management and Gola landscape conservation is enhanced through exchanges, coordination and joint initiatives between communities, rangers, and border authorities, alongside concerted efforts at the national level.

In alignment with the governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone's commitment to the joint management of the Gola Forest Landscape, the project will support the facilitation of harmonization efforts under the leadership of the MRU to align protocols and legislation related to transboundary forest management and conservation *(Activity 1.1.1)* including the implementation of the "Free Movement Policy" for personnel assigned to work in the forest. Through strategic engagement, stakeholders in each country will convene for dialogues, workshops, and consultations to assess existing protocols and legislation, identify disparities, and draft amendments or new protocols. The process will emphasize collaboration and negotiation among diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, community leaders, and environmental advocates. By fostering consensus and refining proposals through consultation, the initiative aims to achieve harmonized frameworks that promote seamless

cooperation, uphold conservation goals, and strengthen cross-border management of the Gola Forest landscape.

To promote peace, trust, and collaboration among law enforcement officials (including immigration, police, drug enforcement, and customs), as well as forest management authorities (such as the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) of Liberia and the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA), including rangers), and local communities, the project aims to enhance transparency and accountability of border and forest management authorities across the Gola Forest landscape. This will entail conducting a gender-sensitive assessment to evaluate the relations between community members and these authorities and the groups' perceptions of each other in targeted border areas *(1.1.2).* Based on the assessment findings, and in collaboration with FDA, NPAA, local authorities, community members, civil society organizations, and partners such as the WABiLED and PAPFor projects, the project will develop and support the implementation of action plans *(1.1.3)* to bring communities and local authorities to identify appropriate, priority and feasible actions to bring the community members, local authorities, and border and forest managements authorities closer together and have better communication.

Key equipment essential for enhancing active collaboration and communication between forest rangers and immigration authorities will be provided *(1.1.4)*, thereby improving communication and monitoring capacities, fostering real-time coordination between key stakeholders involved in cross-border management. The key equipment would strengthen the protection of the Gola Rainforest by improving monitoring and communication channels on illegal activities occurring in the forest as a means to reduce the potential of such activities to lead to conflict within the targeted cross-border communities. It would also empower the community members who volunteer with the forest rangers to gain a sense of ownership and work collectively with the authorities to manage the forest. It could include two-way radios, GPS devices/ compasses/ solar-powered mobile charging unit, high-powered flashlight, rugged backpack, trail cameras and motions sensors, night vision binoculars/ scopes, sat phones, rangers' mobility support, small rehabilitation work, etc. To ensure the continuity of this support, a comprehensive maintenance plan will be implemented, with designated personnel, trained technicians or support staff, assigned to regularly inspect, repair, and upkeep the provided equipment. To contribute to the sustainability of the support, the importance of providing key equipment needed to manage the protected forest will be emphasized to key government stakeholders during the engagements carried out under activity 1.1.1.

Furthermore, the project aims to facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive implementation plan for community engagement and policing, including training for local communities, stakeholders, and law enforcement (*1.1.5*). As part of the plan, comprehensive mapping and assessments of the existing capacities and needs of the targeted stakeholders such as border authorities and local conflict resolution mechanisms, will be conducted with the aim of identifying the specific areas of improvement and tailoring capacity building interventions to address gaps effectively. Through customized training modules on peacebuilding, conflict resolution, human rights, gender and cultural sensitivity, communication techniques, and community-building strategies, participants (law enforcement, community members, CSOs, etc.) will acquire practical skills to promote trust and fair policing practices. Included in the plan, will be two trainings held in the targeted communities in each country (four trainings in total). The first training (activity 1.2.3) will have modules on the previously mentioned subjects and will be delivered to local communities and stakeholders, especially focused on the local conflict resolution mechanisms such as the Community Management Associations (CMAs) and Local Consultative Committees (LCC). The second training (activity 1.2.1) will be focused on

authorities including, but not limited to, border officials and forest rangers with modules on the previously mentioned subjects and a strong emphasis on human rights. The comprehensive implementation plan will inform the development of capacity-building trainings under activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.3 and the document will be shared with the relevant stakeholders as a knowledge management resource to inform future trainings in both countries. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will ensure continuous improvement and promote transparency and mutual respect. By investing in this initiative, the project aims to create safer, more resilient communities and lay the foundation for a better, more inclusive future.

Output 1.2. Communities, local leaders, and border authorities are empowered for peaceful conflict resolution on land access and natural resource management.

A cascading border and sustainable resource management training program for border officials, including immigration, police, drug enforcement, customs, revenue officials (***1.2.1***) will be carried out, incorporating a Training of Trainers (ToT) component to ensure long-term viability and scalability. The comprehensive implementation plan for community engagement and policing (activity 1.1.5) which will include a risk assessment informed by the Human Rights Due Diligence Reports at the country levels[41], will advise the selection of 10 individuals in each country who will be equipped with the requisite skills and knowledge to effectively train their peers. Building upon the findings of the assessment in the comprehensive implementation plan, a diverse array of training modules will be considered, encompassing topics such as cross-border cooperation, migration, wildlife protection, resource management and environmental conservation, community engagement, conflict resolution, ethical considerations, gender equality and a human rights-oriented approach to border management. The development of these modules will be a collaborative effort between IOM Liberia and Sierra Leone and its implementing partners, involving also relevant UN agencies such as UNODC and in consultation with specialized international institutions on peacebuilding such the Koffi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre. This activity will lead to catalytic impact by building in-country capacity for the delivery of trainings to security officials on peacebuilding and cross-border cooperation to ensure the sustainability of knowledge sharing on the subjects after the project ends.

At the national level, a workshop in each country will be dedicated to the technical staff of the relevant agencies and ministries such as the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) in Liberia and the Ministry of Environment in Sierra Leone (***1.2.2***). The workshops, developed in consultation with the specialised UN agencies such as FAO, will cover relevant topics such as environmental frameworks, including conservation efforts, (national and international), policies and action plans, sustainable resource management (including transboundary forest management) and their links to peacebuilding and conflict management. The primary goal of these workshops will be to enhance the understanding and technical skills of the relevant ministries, enabling them to implement the existing policies and protocols that strengthen cross-border cooperation on forest management, and promote sustainable development for peace and prosperity within the Gola Forest Landscape. The workshops would strengthen the knowledge of the targeted stakeholders on environmental frameworks and peacebuilding, amongst other topics to serve as a catalyst for the effective implementation of policies focused on better management of the forest and its link to peacebuilding in both countries.

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[41] OHCHR in Liberia and the Human Rights Advisor in Sierra Leone have been engaged to conduct a joint human rights due diligence assessment on the park rangers and the security officials working in the Gola Rainforest. The assessment will be conducted during the project's inception phase and will be funded through the project under activity 1.1.5.

Concurrently, capacity-building trainings will be implemented for members of existing local and cross-border conflict resolution mechanisms (*1.2.3*), with specific attention given to facilitating a cross-border exchange program for women leaders. This program aims to empower participants through leadership workshops, networking events, and skill-building sessions focused on peacebuilding, gender equality, and community empowerment, particularly emphasizing the active and safe participation of women and youth. This initiative will include undertaking early on in the project's implementation as part of the comprehensive implementation plan for community engagement and policing under activity 1.1.5, a comprehensive mapping of existing local and cross-border conflict resolution mechanisms (together with an in-depth conflict analysis update that will inform the entire project), laying the groundwork for the revitalization, strengthening and/ or establishment of legitimate and (more) inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms. The core objective of this initiative, led by a specialized international institution on peacebuilding such as the Clingendael Institute, will be to nurture a culture of dialogue and inclusiveness within these locally driven peacebuilding mechanisms, empowering communities to peacefully resolve conflict and strengthen trust with local leaders. This is essential, given the prevailing lack of trust in law enforcement and border management and will provide more accessible opportunities for local people to have their land and resource conflicts resolved locally and peacefully.

Output 1.3: Community participation and cross-border cooperation are fostered for sustainable resource management and increased social cohesion

To encourage greater trust, collaboration and accountability among communities, local leaders, immigration officials, rangers, and eco-guards, two cross border community forums (*1.3.1*), one in each country, will be facilitated, in collaboration with PAPFor and WABILED Projects through the local and cross-border conflict resolution mechanisms identified in activity 1.2.3. These forums will serve as platforms for dialogue and engagement, ensuring that communities, particularly women's voices and contributions are recognized and valued in cross-border community engagement efforts. The first forum will give voice to the communities to discuss issues related to natural resource management, land mapping, illegal activities such as trafficking, mining, poaching, timber logging and smuggling, as well as border management. The second forum will take the form of a cross-border experience-sharing, bringing together the different stakeholders. This exchange event will provide a unique opportunity for stakeholders to share best practices, lessons learned, and experiences related to sustainable resource management, fostering cross-border learning and collaboration, thereby sustaining peace in the Liberia and Sierra Leone border area.

Based on the results from the forums, the project will support the local and cross-border conflict resolution mechanisms identified in 1.2.3, particularly youth and women's groups to organize sensitization and awareness campaigns through Community and ECOWAS radios and produce Information, Education and Communication materials in local languages (*1.3.2*) to promote further community engagement and awareness on the issues which were resolved during the forums. These productions will serve as a powerful medium for conveying key messages related to sustainable resource management and cross-border collaboration in the context of the targeted communities, fostering a deeper understanding and recognition of the challenges and opportunities associated with the effective border and protected land management.

Additionally, based on the needs of and under the leadership of the local and cross-border conflict resolution mechanisms, the project will facilitate the organization of social dialogue, cultural and sport, initiatives for cross-border community engagement (*1.3.3*) with a view to improving peaceful exchanges and social cohesion mechanisms between the communities and the authorities such as the

forest rangers and border officials, and within the communities. Under phases 1 and 2 of a peacebuilding cross border project between Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, similar activities have effectively contributed to facilitating rapprochement between communities on both sides of the two borders, going so far as to break down the wall of mistrust through the promotion of the values of peace and social cohesion. These activities would be adapted to the context of Sierra Leone and Liberia border communities to facilitate rapprochement between the communities and the authorities on both sides of the border.

Finally, the project will also be supporting 20 youth and/ or women locally driven initiatives of community-based organisations (CBOs) aimed at reinforcing trust between the cross-border communities, local authorities, border authorities and rangers/ eco-guards, fostering social cohesion and promoting a sense of shared responsibility *(1.3.4)* within the Gola Forest landscape. The support to locally driven initiatives led by youth and/ or women will empower them and reinforce their roles as drivers for peace in their communities. This activity aims to contribute to community ownership of the peace process ensuring the sustainability of the project's outcomes after it ends.

<u>**Outcome 2**</u>
Communities' resilience is strengthened through inclusive forest management and youth driven climate-smart agriculture livelihood support

Output 2.1: Disempowered youth are empowered, socio-economic resilience built, and natural resource management enhanced through climate-smart food production systems

To start with, a thorough cross-border market study will be conducted jointly by WFP Liberia and Sierra Leone to assess the current market trends and demands in the Gola landscape area, thereby enabling the development of targeted strategies to facilitate the effective integration of disempowered youth into the climate-smart agricultural livelihood opportunities. In parallel, in order to boost income for youth concerned about their daily subsistence while sustainably improving their livelihood, fostering interdependent market exchange relationships and peaceful cross border relations, 2,000 'disempowered' youth, including at least one-third young women, will be identified to develop irrigation systems in 40 perennial Inland Valley Swamps (IVSs) which will be continuously cultivated with rice and nutritious vegetables in the Gola landscape buffer zones *(2.1.1)*. This livelihood initiative distinguishes itself by specifically targeting youth who have been or are at risk of engaging in behaviours and activities that could potentially impact broader communities and peace, rather than focusing on vulnerable youth in general. IVS are of particular interest in the context of the Gola landscape buffer zones for various reasons: IVS farming (i) is labour intensive, requiring youth farmers to work in groups, thus providing an opportunity to foster social cohesion; (ii) provide a high potential food production system due to year-round water availability and fertile soils, meaning that they can be cultivated continuously, unlike uplands that are rainfed and are only viable during the rains; (iii) is usually owned by landowning families but can be readily leased to youth through land leasing agreements, with youth providing a portion of their harvest as "rent"; (iv) provide a static production system, discouraging environmentally unsustainable shifting agriculture; and (v) provide a steady income revenue through the cultivation of rice, vegetables and legumes targeting local markets and demands created through other interventions including the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.

40 Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs, 20 in Liberia and 20 in Sierra Leone), each comprising 50 youth at risk (with min 40% women), will be established, acting as collaborative hubs for knowledge exchange and collective learning. Each FBO will be assisted to establish a Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), that will enable the youth to not only access capital and develop skills, but also

foster a sense of belonging and responsibility, particularly important given the profile of the youth farmers concerned *(2.1.2)*.

To empower youth with the know-how to maximize agricultural yields and engage in commercial agriculture, farmers will be trained in improved agronomic practices and organizational governance *(2.1.3),* implemented by WFP and its partners via Farmers Field Schools (FFS) established at community-level. Considering the distinctive profile of these youth, a targeted approach will be used to raise their awareness about the risks associated with drug abuse and deforestation as livelihood practices, with the goal of enabling a shift in cultural and social resistance towards farming. The principles of Leave No One Behind and Gender Mainstreaming will be integrated in the selection of the participating youth, and a specific emphasis will also be placed on providing life skills as well as conflict resolution and mediation techniques to enable these youth to effectively address any arising issues and strengthen social cohesion within their communities.

Recognizing the need for specialized technical support, 40 Community Youth Contractors (1 per community) will be identified by the community, trained and empowered as grassroots agricultural technicians, equipped with the necessary skills to provide water irrigation maintenance support and other technical assistance to their fellow farmers *(2.1.4).* Local expertise, such as the Barefoot Women Solar Engineers Association, will be mobilized to conduct the training when possible.

As developing irrigation systems in IVS is labour intensive, including the manual clearing of thick vegetation, to facilitate the establishment of these agricultural assets, conditional cash transfers totalling USD 360,000 will be allocated to the youth *(2.1.5)* as remuneration for engaging in land development to unlock the potential of these highly productive agricultural resources. This approach is crucial to ensure the youth do not drop out of the initiative in the intensive and initial stage; then, once the irrigation system is established and crops cultivated, youth FBOs will sell their produce to WFP's existing markets, particularly the Home-Grown School Feeding initiative and other potential buyers. This strategic linkage will not only enhance the market access of disempowered youth but also promote the consumption of locally produced nutritious food, contributing to the overall socio-economic development, food security and resilience of the communities.

Special emphasis will be placed on the promotion of young women-led organic compost enterprises. Disempowered women in each of the 40 FBOs will be empowered through the provision of skills and resources to produce organic compost, which in turn supports the cultivation of diverse crops, fostering agricultural sustainability and soil fertility. To protect water sources and the long-term viability of IVS as a food production system, reforestation of degraded water catchment areas will be carried out to restore ecological balance, enhance biodiversity, and promote sustainable water resource management, thereby creating a conducive environment for sustainable agricultural activities *(2.1.6).*

Short-duration seeds, improved planning materials along with organic and slow-release fertilizers will be provided to limit any environmental risks that could come with the use of synthetic fertilizers, while agricultural working equipment, processing machinery and tools for production and post-harvest management (e.g. power tillers, mobile rice threshers, and milling machines) will be provided for the farmers organizations. A system of shared resources will be encouraged, each FBO having access to specific equipment while relying on other neighbouring FBOs for supplementary resources. Interconnectedness and collaboration between FBOs will be encouraged every step of the way and will be formalized by the establishment of a youth cooperative for joint aggregation, processing, and marketing, thereby fostering a spirit of collective engagement and shared success *(2.1.7).*

Finally, recognizing the shared profiles, contexts and challenges these youth face, cross-border lesson-sharing meetings between youth FBOs from Liberia and Sierra Leone will be facilitated. These exchanges will be facilitated with a focus on fostering a spirit of collaboration and mutual learning across communities, considering gender considerations to ensure the active and safe participation of women members of FBOs. They will seek to strengthen the bond between vulnerable youth and promoting a sense of shared purpose and collective growth within the border regions *(2.1.8)*.

Output 2.2: Communities are empowered to manage community forests more inclusively and sustainably

A comprehensive review and simplification of existing environmental laws and forest management policies will be conducted to make these regulations more accessible to community members by translating them into local languages and presenting them in a manner that is easily understandable and overcomes literacy barriers. To ensure that Gola forest-edge communities, spanning both Liberia and Sierra Leone, are well-informed about their rights, responsibilities and sustainable practices, a multi-faceted community education program will be implemented. This program will include multimedia engagement and community meetings *(2.2.1)*. To reach the broader public within the border area, laws and policies will be aired on radio through panel discussions and jingles, as well as displayed pictorially on signboards. Specific attention will be dedicated to highlighting the cross-border nature of the Gola landscape, stressing the importance of viewing it as a unified entity rather than distinct national territories.

The inclusivity of 40 existing community-based resource management structures – community-level committees tasked with optimizing land governance in their environs – will be strengthened through a participatory approach, placing a special attention on ensuring gender representation *(2.2.2)*. Inclusive processes will be used to engage women and youth in decision-making roles within these structures, promoting a more diverse and equitable approach to community forest management. Existing structures will be trained on policies and laws and tasked with using these to mediate any disagreements or issues that arise in their communities, escalating serious issues to the relevant authorities. Building on lessons learned from previous land governance project implemented in concession communities, this Cross Border project communities will be supported to set-up and manage a hot-line call centre for monitoring and escalating issues around illegal trafficking, artisanal mining and activities of concession companies that could fuel tension leading to conflict between communities and concessionaires.

Moreover, building on the land mapping exercises conducted by FAO, UNDP and the regional PAPfor project in Sierra Leone and Liberia respectively, a community-driven landscape mapping initiative will be conducted to identify and demarcate community forests and buffer zones *(2.2.3)*. To achieve this, the project will engage community members to plant fruit trees to serve as boundary markers of the community forest, providing a physical reference point and promoting broader community ownership of this important but under threat resource.

The project will also seek to support community forests demarcation through community-driven mapping to access carbon trading initiatives, aligning with the global REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) initiative *(2.2.4)*. It will provide support and capacity-building to empower 40 communities to engage in carbon financing activities, incentivizing the conservation of community forests to mitigate climate change and generate economic benefits from the participating communities. It will leverage lessons learned from the ongoing REDD+ project implemented in GNRP in Sierra Leone since 2013. Education resources to help communities

understand the concept of carbon trading and its relevance to their community forests will be provided through training sessions, with a specific focus on youth and women. Coaching will be provided to assist communities in navigating the complexities of carbon markets and setting up monitoring systems to track changes in forest carbon stocks over time. To ensure that the economic benefits from carbon trading directly benefit the communities, the project will support the establishment of revenue-sharing mechanisms or community development funds, funded through the sale of carbon credits. This approach aims to enhance the resilience of communities and sustainability of the initiative, fostering a positive cycle where the communities actively contribute and reap the rewards of environmental conservation. In Liberia, the RED+ initiative seeks to encourage the nation to contribute to climate change mitigation efforts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), reversing forest loss and degradation and increasing removal of GHGs from the earth's atmosphere through the conservation, management and expansion of forests.
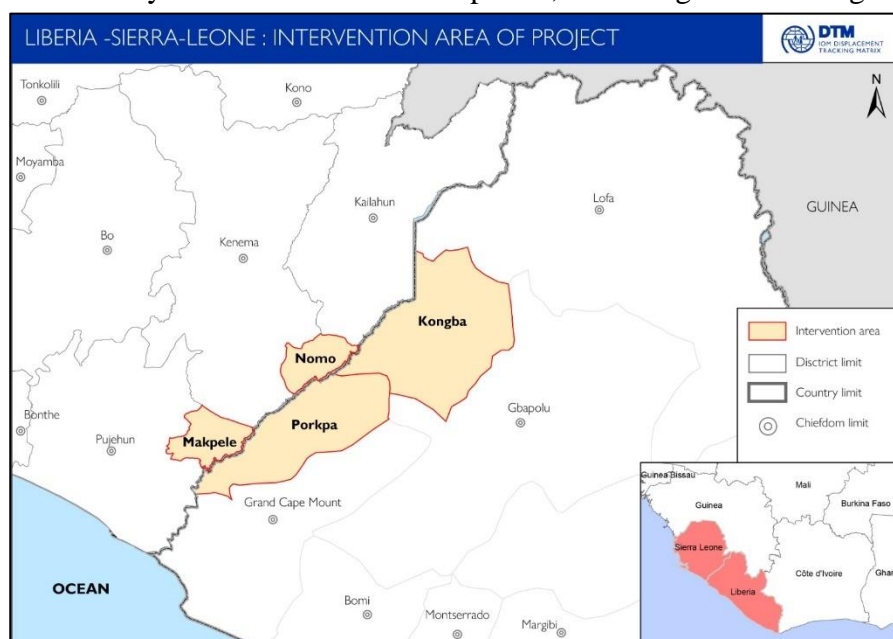
Finally, a two-day cross-border experience-sharing initiative will be organized for 40 community representatives engaged in carbon trading (minimum 40% of women) to facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in inclusive forest management, fostering a sense of shared purpose and collective growth within the Gola landscape border regions *(2.2.5)*.

d) **Project targeting**

Government counterparts at national and district/county level were consulted in Liberia and Sierra Leone to identify areas where the drivers of conflict the project seeks to address are the most visible and/ or likely to unfold. Additionally, given the cross-border nature of this peacebuilding project, the following criteria were used to identify the targeted chiefdoms and counties: forest-edge communities, close to the border, cross-border communities, clustered communities, areas having not benefited from similar interventions and where IOM and WFP see an added-value based on their expertise and access. Based on these, the intervention anticipates focusing on:
- **Grand Cape Mount** and **Gbarpolu counties,** in Liberia
- **Nomo Chiefdom** in **Kenema district** and **Makpele** in **Pujehun district,** in Sierra Leone

Specific localities have not yet been identified and will be determined during the slightly extended project start-up process. This 3-month inception phase will allow adequate time for a more in-depth locally driven conflict analysis and baseline development, including a human rights due diligence

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assessment of the forest rangers and authorities working in the Gola Rainforest. The selection criteria for target communities will prioritize areas with existing conflicts or tensions related to land and forest management and access to livelihood opportunities. Additional factors include the prevalence of youth and women migration towards mining sites, logging, and other illegal activities, along with the level of community support and buy-in. The project will also prioritize buffer areas where suitable Inland Valley Swamps are available for development, proximity to the border, important cross-border exchange, and accessible road network. Specific attention will be devoted to reaching communities that have thus far received limited or no development and/ or peacebuilding support.

While systematically encouraging interconnection among the beneficiaries of both project's outcomes, which will be facilitated through the regular coordination meetings and monitoring from the Project Coordinator, targeted stakeholder groups will be specific to the objectives of each outcome.

The selection criteria for direct beneficiaries of Outcome 1 will consider individuals and groups affected by conflicts and tensions around land/forest management and border management, including local community representatives (and particularly eco-guards among them), forest rangers and border officials. In addition to the key stakeholders participating to or benefitting from (ToT) capacity building trainings, a larger number of local community representatives, including local leaders/ authorities, women, youth, and particularly those that are disempowered (see below definition), will be engaged in community forums and cultural, sporting, and economic initiatives for cross-border community engagement, totalling more than 10,000 beneficiaries. The outreach will be further amplified through live radio broadcasts of the open-air forums, sensitization, and awareness campaigns. Additionally, 20 CBOs will benefit from micro-grants, enabling their active engagement with local communities and stakeholders involved in cross border collaboration and peacebuilding efforts. The initiatives are anticipated to collectively reach an estimated 2,000 people.

While the actual identification of the 2,000 disempowered youth (including 600 young women) who will be engaged in Outcome 2.1 focusing on livelihood support will require a more in-depth conflict analysis and stakeholders mapping in the targeted areas to ensure the right level of granularity and do-no-harm considerations are taken into account, we anticipate, rather than engaging any vulnerable youth, to prioritize individuals or groups experiencing feelings of exclusion, anger, desperation, and frustration due to limited access to livelihood opportunities. These include youth who have undergone rehabilitation (particularly for areas affected by drug-related issues), women engaged in cross-border petty trade and directly exposed to/ victims of various security threats, including harassment, occasionally of sexual nature, ghetto youth, marginalized youth involved in or at risk of resorting to illegal activities, such as poaching, logging, artisanal mining, or other criminal activities. While the latter do not constitute a clearly defined social category, the project will strive to identify them, in partnership with local partners, referring to criteria such as: youth (mostly men but also women) fending for themselves, ex-combatants, not participating in education and training programmes, interested or already engaged in agriculture and farming, formal school dropouts, heads of households/ single parents, long-term unemployed, prone to drug abuse, highly vulnerable to negative peer influence, more likely to be involved in physical/ sexual violence, etc.

Moreover, the project will also directly engage with women/ youth community-based organizations (CBOs), including through the Farmers Field Schools (FFS) approach, capable of directly engaging with these disempowered individuals, as well as community leaders and traditional/local authorities with the capacity to influence and engage with disempowered youth.

The project, via the Peacebuilding Project Coordinator in particular, will ensure conflict sensitivity and 'Do No Harm' are mainstreamed throughout project activities, including supporting project partners to conduct regular action-orientated conflict analysis to ensure activities do no exacerbate inequalities and stakeholders support the project.

III.   Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

a) Recipient organizations and implementing partners.

IOM's key contribution to the project is its expertise in migration and border governance and management. With a presence in Liberia since 2003 and in Sierra Leone since 2001, with offices in Monrovia and Freetown, IOM has established networks and partnerships in the region that will be instrumental in facilitating project implementation, community engagement and capacity building activities. In addition, IOM's experience in cross-border initiatives and its focus on social cohesion and community engagement are closely aligned with the objectives of the proposed project. IOM's office in Monrovia will serve as a hub for project coordination, monitoring. Similarly, WFP brings valuable expertise in integrated lifesaving and resilience-building activities, livelihoods interventions, capacity strengthening, empowering young women smallholder farmers in particular that will complement IOM's efforts to address the needs of vulnerable populations in border communities. WFP has been present in Sierra Leone since 1968 and since 1960 in Liberia with an Office in Monrovia, and a Field Office in Nimba and Freetown, with Sub-Offices in Makeni and Kenema, and field offices in Falaba, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bonthe and Karene. Both agencies' experience in implementing projects in remote and underserved areas will be invaluable in reaching out to communities in the project targeted areas.

Agency	Total budget in previous calendar year	Key sources of budget (which donors etc.)	Location of in-country offices	No. of existing staff, of which in project zones	Highlight any existing expert staff of relevance to project
Convening Organization: IOM Liberia	USD 2,168,908	PBF; Migration MPTF; IOM Development Fund (IDF); USA - Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Australia, Department of Home Affairs Netherlands, Ministry for Foreign Trade, MIRAC Fund	Monrovia	13 staff (2 international and 11 national)	Chief of Mission

Programme Support Officer

Resource Management Officer

Senior Project Assistant

M & E Assistant |
| Implementing partners:

Society for Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL); Talking | | | | | |

Drums Studio - Liberia					
Recipient Organization: IOM Sierra Leone	USD 6,100,000	European Union, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, IOM Development Fund (IDF), USA, France	Freetown, with active presence in the field	36 staff (3 international and 33 national)	Head of Office Resource Management Officer National Project Officer Senior Project Assistant M&E Officer
Implementing partner: GRCLG; Talking Drums Studio – Sierra Leone					
Recipient Organization: WFP Liberia	USD 7,900,000	The Church of the Latter-Day Saints, France, USAID, Japan, Master Card, Rauch Family Foundation, WFP/USA	Monrovia, with a Field Office in Nimba	54 staff in both main and field office	1 Agriculture Engineer, 1 Sustainable Energy and Environment Specialist, 1 Civil Engineer, 3 staff with extensive experience in implementing PBF projects
Implementing partners: BRAC, WHH					
Recipient Organization: WFP Sierra Leone	USD 27,750,203	USAID, Government of Sierra Leone, MasterCard Foundation, MK Foundation, UNPBF, Irish Aid	Freetown, with Sub-Offices in Makeni and Kenema, and field offices in Falaba, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bonthe and Karene	126 staff	
Implementing partner – GRCLG, Green Scenery, Namati					

Implementing Partners

An estimated 18% of the entire budget will be provided to civil society organisations as grants. Activity 1.3.4 will provide grants to only civil society organisations led by youth and/or women to ensure that their voices are heard, and their ideas are implemented in their communities.

Talking Drums Studio Liberia and **Talking Drums Studio Sierra Leone** are national sister CSOs that have emerged as the legacy of Search for Common Ground (Search), a peacebuilding INGO that began operating in Liberia in 1997. Today, as a separate entity, they build on our 20 years of experience to influence people's attitudes and behaviours. The radio jingles, dramas, and educational materials that they produce make complex issues such as gender-based violence, education, health, justice, or land disputes accessible to all. In Liberia, they have a permanent office in Monrovia and focal points and community mobilizers in all of the 15 counties. In Sierra Leone, they have an office in Freetown. They will be contracted as implementing partners and asked to collaborate with each other in relation to the community engagement activities under O1.3.

Gola Rainforest Conservation - Limited by Guarantee (GRC-LG) is formed by the partnership of the Forestry Division of the Government of Sierra Leone, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and the people of the seven Gola Chiefdoms. They have an office in Kenema and representatives around the Gola rainforest national park. GRC-LG's vision is to act as a catalyst for peace, prosperity and national pride in Sierra Leone by ensuring that the Gola Rainforest is conserved and that neighbouring communities are active environmental stewards of the natural resource that underpins and enhances their livelihoods. They will be contracted as implementing partners in relation to their engagement with border officials and community members on the joint management of the Gola Rainforest under O1.1 and O1.2.

Green Scenery, established in 1989 Green Scenery works on environmental promotion, human right issues, and governance. Their country office is in Freetown, and they have a field office in Kenema district. Green Scenery will support implementation of output 2.2, including strengthening of resource management structures, mapping and demarcation of community forests and linking to carbon financing schemes.

SCNL - was established in 1986 as a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit organization. As the leading national civil society organization for nature conservation in Liberia, SCNL's mission is to educate, encourage and assist civil society in understanding the importance and methods of nature conservation. SCNL is dedicated to fostering a collective understanding of the effective management of biodiversity. With 2 offices in Grand Cape Mount County office (Mano River Congo, Porkpa District; Torsor Town, Commonwealth District), and 1 office in Gbarpolu County (Kongbor town, Kongba District), SCNL will be engaged as implementing partner. The collaboration will extend to working closely with the GRC-LG to empower local communities, leaders and border authorities for sustainable resource management and peaceful conflict resolution in the Gola landscape.

Namati- Namati is a legal empowerment organisation, consisting of paralegals and lawyers dedicated to advancing social and environmental justice by building a movement of people to know, use, and shape the law. It partners with communities, governments, and civil society organisations to develop, implement, and evaluate legal empowerment strategies across various themes, including environmental justice, community land protection and conservation. Namati was established 11yers ago and has a physical presence in six countries. In Sierra Leone, Namati has operational offices in all the five regions of the country: Bo, Kenema, Makeni, Port Loko and Freetown with a total of 42 staff.

BRAC Liberia was established in 2008 and is currently operating social development programmes in Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood, Education, Ultra-Poor Graduation, Youth Empowerment, Health, and Microfinance. The organization works in 12 out of 15 counties of Liberia to support the underprivileged.

WHH (Deutsche Welthungerhilfe) has been working in Liberia since 2003. Welthungerhilfe is represented with a country office in Monrovia and also maintains 3 further project offices in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, Buchanan, Grand Bassa County and Greenville, Sinoe County. Welthungerhilfe is committed to the vision of "A world in which everyone has the chance to exercise their right to a self- determined life in dignity and justice, free from hunger and poverty the fight against poverty". Welthungerhilfe has a long history and experience of 20 years since 2003 in implementing a variety of humanitarian and development projects in Liberia (and 60 years globally since its establishment in 1962), with a focus on food and nutrition security, WASH, Infrastructure development (markets, roads, bridges, motorcycle tracks, culverts, health facilities, irrigation schemes),

b) **Project management and coordination**

The full list of staff charged to the project and the TORs of the Peacebuilding Project Coordinator (PPC) are in the Annex A3 and A4 this project document.

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators (RCs) for Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) in both countries will provide overall leadership with RC/RCO Liberia providing the overall project oversight/liaison with PBSO, while IOM Liberia will function as lead implementation entity for the project and will ensure (together with IOM Sierra Leone) coordination within the project as well as with other relevant UN, Government, and non-Government entities in each country. It will also coordinate and ensure quality of project-wide M&E, oversight and compliance with policies, accountability and reporting and communication functions.

Guidance and oversight for the project will be provided by a Steering Committee, chaired by the two ministers, co-chaired by the two RCs, comprised by the PDAs and PBF Secretariat in the RCOs in both countries, representatives from the Government´s line ministries from both countries and four UN chief of missions (IOM-LR, IOM-SL, WFP-LR, WFP-SL). In addition, partners such as the USAID and EU supporting interventions in the Gola Forest Landscape will be invited to participate in the Steering Committee meetings. The Steering Committee will meet in the beginning, mid-term, and end of the project, rotating between meetings in Liberia and Sierra Leone, in the capitals and at the field level.

To ensure effective project management and monitoring, the project will hire a full-time internationally recruited Peacebuilding Project Coordinator (PPC) at P3 level, contracted by IOM Liberia, overseeing project implementation in both countries. The PPC will coordinate project implementation, including the overall workplan and strategy, as well as reporting, emphasizing peacebuilding strategies and facilitating seamless communication among stakeholders to prevent redundancy and misunderstandings. Monthly team meetings will be convened to plan and monitor activities. Under the previous PBF cross-border project between Guinea and Sierra Leone, these monthly meetings served as a means for all implementing agencies to review their progress and ensure the project was being implemented as planned whilst also creating room to share best practices and challenges faced during implementation. The PPC, based in Monrovia, will conduct regular visits to ensure well-coordinated project components and results. Additionally, she/ he will organise joint missions for the Technical Committee, ensure secretariat for the Steering Committee meetings and oversee progress reporting. Reporting to IOM Liberia, the PPC will maintain open communication and collaboration with all implementing agencies and all the other project staff will have a reporting line to the PPC.

c) **Risk management**

Project specific risk		Risk level (low, medium, high)	Mitigation strategy (including Do No Harm considerations)
Political	Riots, demonstrations, protests. 2023 post-elections related issues (e.g transfer of power to elected president, results rejection, breaches to state security, etc.) Absence of government buy-in on the project due to the post-elections change and/ or the subjects it seeks to address	High	- Should important changes in the contexts occur, the conflict analysis will be updated/ revised and programmatic adaptations will be considered - Trust-based relationship with technical counterparts in government to be built and fostered - Reference to the UN system business continuity plan that provides guidance for continued program implementation in the event of a political or health-related emergency - Government officials will be engaged in every stage of the implementation process, through technical committees and steering committees to ensure their voices are heard and their perspectives are considered. Regular and transparent communication channels to discuss concerns, challenges, and potential solutions will be initiated
Environmental	Sierra Leone and Liberia are two countries prone to heavy rainfalls, and mudslides often resulting in severe flooding that renders road infrastructure inaccessible Climate variation negatively impacts agriculture activities Health epidemic	High	- IOM, WFP and its IPs will use local contacts as well as national, regional and international early warning situational updates to track the targeted areas. - Activities may have to be postponed when the road are impracticable and/ or agricultural activities adapted to seasonal changes. The annual project plan will factor in the reality to plan field activities around the raining season. - WFP/IOM to coordinate with disaster management line ministries to mitigate potential impacts of crises
Operational	Slow recruitment of key project staff leading to delays in the work plan implementation	Medium	- TORs for key position will be prepared in advance - The hiring of staff will be anticipated as much as possible based on direct recipient's internal procedures - Potential delays in staff recruitment will be anticipated and time buffers to account for any unforeseen delays will be included in the workplan

Operational	Delayed identification and contractual partnership formalization with implementing partners and delays to delivery of agricultural equipment	Medium	- Informal discussions with IPs have started and will be continued ahead of the project launch - IPs will be identified based on a thorough research and due diligence process to ensure the IPs are aligned with project's goals - A comprehensive due diligence process that encompasses legal, financial, operational, and reputational assessments of potential implementing partners will be conducted for new partners (incl. background checks, reviews of past performance, financial management evaluation, etc.) - Potential delays in partner identification and formalization will be anticipated and time buffers to account for any unforeseen delays will be included in the workplan. - Capacity building support and guidance to potential partners during the contractual partnership formalization process will be provided as needed - Agriculture equipment will be identified, and procurement actions initiated during the recruitment of IPs.
Operational	Weak coordination among direct recipients	Low	- Recruitment of peacebuilding project coordinator that will serve as the central contact person, promoting streamlined communication and ensuring team collaboration - During the inception workshop, a session will be dedicated to discussing coordination, with the objective of establishing clear communication channels and agreeing on a detailed action plan outlining roles, responsibilities and complementarity of actions. - Regular coordination meetings will be organized between direct recipients, as well as with its partners to facilitate information sharing and foster greater collaboration (in addition to technical and steering committees)

Social	Women participation in livelihood program is limited by prevailing social and cultural norms and resistance from e.g. traditional male leaders Insufficient women engaged directly or indirectly in illegal mining or logging benefit from the project (in line with the GEWE target)	Low	- A supportive environment for women to take part in livelihood programs will be fostered through sensitization and awareness raising to transform existing social and cultural norms that restrict women's participation - Women's support groups and networks will provide a platform for women to share experiences, access mentorship and peer support - Time and resources will be invested to sensitize leaders at community, chiefdoms, districts/ county levels on project's aims and provisions of GEWE - The project will engage with women that are at-risk of joining and/ or supporting illegal activities
Social	Low acceptance and ownership of the project by (i) border officials and park rangers, and (ii) local leaders and paramount chiefs	Low	- Specific attention will be given to the building of trust between the project and border officials/ rangers. Engagement at the national level with key border authorities as well as at the local levels will be ensured to ensure buy-in at all levels - The activities that seek to develop skills/ capacity of border officials and rangers will be tailored to their needs to ensure greater ownership of the project outcome
Social	Young people engaged in illegal activities refuse to join the livelihood support program, or are not interested by farming activities	Medium	- Community leaders and other persons that can influence positively this target group will be mobilized to engage with them and provide the social buffer they may require - Targeted community outreach to raise awareness on the risks illegal activities encompass may be conducted - Youth specific aspirations will be taken into consideration and, when farming activities are not of interest, alternative opportunities will be explored via parallel on-going activities.

Social	Engaging disempowered youth exacerbates social tensions and conflict dynamics, leading to increased marginalization		- Conflict-sensitive approaches that prioritize understanding local power dynamics and community needs, aiming to prevent the exacerbation of social vulnerabilities and tensions will be implemented - Holistic skills training and sustainable livelihood opportunities to empower the youth will be offered, thereby facilitating their social (re)integration - Local stakeholders, including youth and women, community leaders and authorities will be engaged and sensitized to ensure that the project's initiatives are aligned with the specific needs and aspirations of disempowered youth, thereby fostering a sense of inclusivity and community support - Routine monitoring and regular impact assessments will be conducted to identify and address any potential unwanted consequences of the project, ensuring the project adheres to the 'Do No Harm' principle and minimizes any negative effects

| social | Women and Young Women participating in the project face sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) | Medium | - Conduct a gender-sensitive assessments to identify specific barriers and risks faced by women and young women in project implementation areas.
- Implement awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions on gender equality, women's rights, and GBV prevention and response, targeting both project participants and the wider community.
- Establish safe spaces and support networks for women and young women to access information, resources, and assistance related to SGBV issues, including confidential reporting mechanisms and referral pathways to relevant support services.
- Integrate gender-responsive approaches and safeguards into project activities and interventions, ensuring that they are designed and implemented in a manner that promotes gender equality, empowers women and young women, and reduces their exposure to SGBV risks.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of SGBV prevention and response measures, regularly reviewing and updating them based on feedback from project participants and relevant stakeholders to address emerging challenges and gaps. |
| social | Engaging Forest Rangers & Border Officials leads to potential human rights violation, tensions or conflicts due to differences in priorities, objectives, or expectations. | Medium | - Human Rights Due Diligence at the beginning of the project will be conducted
- Training and capacity-building opportunities for forest rangers and border officials to enhance their skills and capabilities including in human rights will be provided
- Facilitate dialogue sessions and joint planning exercises to establish common goals and operational procedures.
- Clear communication channels and protocols for coordination and information sharing to minimize misunderstandings and promote collaboration will be established.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of joint activities, soliciting feedback from all participants to identify and address any emerging challenges or concerns promptly. |

Social	Sabotage of efforts to promote security and environmental conservation by spoilers (e.g. criminal gang).	Medium	- Conduct thorough risk assessments to identify areas and activities most vulnerable to infiltration or disruption by criminal gangs. - In coordination with UNDSS, implement robust security measures and protocols to protect project personnel, assets, and beneficiaries from potential threats posed by criminal gangs. - Provide training and capacity-building support to project staff, partners, and community members to recognize and report suspicious activities or behaviors associated with criminal gangs. - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of security measures and adjust strategies as necessary to counter evolving tactics and strategies employed by criminal gangs operating in border areas. - Ensure that security responses to the risk of criminal gangs are proportionate, lawful, and respectful of human rights, avoiding indiscriminate or excessive use of force that could harm innocent civilians or exacerbate tensions in border communities
Financial	Misallocation or misuse of funds prevents the proper implementation of activities. Partners disregards agreed principles of cooperation, do not produce contractual deliverables.	Low	- Strict adherence to IOM and WFP financial procedures in order to reduce the risk of poor management - Application of a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of corruption and signature of an anti-corruption policy as part of the contractual agreement with IPs - Rigorous monitoring and spot checks of implementing partners on a periodic basis - Partners' selection based on a thorough organizational assessment and due diligence process

d) **Monitoring and evaluation**.

The project will employ a mixed approach to M&E – and learning (L) to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the interventions. Considering the challenges commonly associated with the start-up of cross-border peacebuilding project, as highlighted in the mid-term review of PBF 2020-2024 Strategy[42], the project has chosen to extend the inception

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[42] Slow start-up (due to the absence of a clear and comprehensive operational start-up plan, delays in hiring key personnel, as well as partnership formalization and other HR/ops related issues sometimes taking over a year) was highlighted as one of the factors leading to low implementation rate and delivery issues in contexts of weak UN operational presence and/or capacity to rapidly establish a presence in border areas.
PBF 2024-2024 Strategy Mid-term Review, 2022, p. 11

phase for 3 months. This extended phase will provide sufficient time for IOM and WFP to not only hire key personnel, formalize partnerships and establish an adequate operational presence in border areas, but also jointly develop an operational plan, conduct a baseline assessment, and adjust indicators accordingly, and finally foster team spirit and sense of project belonging among team members across agencies and partners. Likewise, the project's phase-out period will be extended for 3 months to allow for thorough evaluation and learning, thereby ensuring a more strategic and effective exit and sustainability. Such an approach is made possible by a careful financial management, requiring limited key personnel during the start-up and phase-out periods.

During the inception phase, a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan will be developed to monitor contextual dynamics and the implementation space. This will inform programmatic adaptations, encourage increased accountability, and facilitate learning among the various project stakeholders, including IOM Liberia, WFP Liberia, IOM Sierra Leone, WFP Sierra Leone, its Implementing Partners and their respective M&E focal points. The MEL plan will outline the timeline for the MEL activities, the responsible recipient organization and/ or IP, and the methodology for monitoring each activity. The peacebuilding project coordinator, in close collaboration with the M&E focal points of each agency and country, will be in charge of ensuring the MEL is updated periodically as need be.

IOM will conduct a baseline survey in the 4 selected counties/ chiefdoms during the first quarter of the project implementation, with the support of an external expert working with local researchers, in close collaboration with the project team. In order to allow for greater continuity in project measurement and build internal capacities of the direct recipients, the M&E officers will closely collaborate with the external expert. The baseline assessment will use a mixed methodology, using quantitative (questionnaire) and qualitative (focus group discussions and key informant interviews) data collection methods to define the situation prior to the start of the project, against which progress will be assessed or comparisons made. Moreover, it will enable the project team to refine its targeting and help test and refine indicators, thus ensuring future accuracy of measurement. The baseline will also investigate more deeply key issues related to the intervention to provide meaningful insights into how to improve and refine the project design and its implementation plan.

An internal 2-day joint inception workshop will be organized in Monrovia or Freetown with key project staff from IOM, WFP and its key implementing partners. The workshop will aim at ensuring a common understanding of the project's key components and theory of change, translating it into an operational plan that clearly defines respective roles and responsibilities. This will involve refining targeting (geographical and beneficiaries) and updating the conflict analysis based on recent contextual dynamics. A specific session will also focus on equipping the project team with the necessary skills and tools to ensure that all activities are implemented through a peacebuilding lens.

Half-way through the implementation of the project, an internal 2-day joint mid-term review workshop will be organized. The workshop will aim to review the theory of change, assess the progress made towards achieving the project's peacebuilding objectives, identify and discuss the challenges encountered, evaluate the peacebuilding impact thus far and consider needed adaptations to the project implementation strategy, including its indicators, based on changes in conflict and peace dynamics. Additionally, the workshop will involve updating the risk assessment and communicate status on budget and expenditure. Discussions will also be launched around the exit strategy, particularly emphasizing to ensure sustainable and lasting impacts beyond the project's duration (catalytic effects).

Routine monitoring using a Community-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (CBM&E) approach will track progress against planned outputs and activities throughout the project implementation. This

monitoring will use various tools, including activity reports, output trackers, and attendance sheets. Moreover, through accountability mechanisms and other means, community members will be encouraged to inform the project's implementation strategy, monitor and evaluate the activities, express satisfaction levels, and suggest necessary adjustments and adaptations – thereby fostering local ownership and accountability. Participatory methods such as community scorecards and focus group discussions will capture both quantitative and qualitative data, ensuring that the activities remain responsive to the specific needs of the targeted beneficiaries and contextual dynamics.

Each of the four offices will be responsible for monitoring the activities under their responsibility, including those carried out by their local partners.

To foster the collaborative spirit of the joint cross-border project, the Peacebuilding Project Coordinator (PPC) will convene virtual monthly operational team meetings as part of the routine monitoring. These meetings will check on activity implementation and encourage collaboration/ synergies across the various project's outcomes. Regular field monitoring missions (averaging 2 per year) will be carried out by the PPC and M&E focal points on both sides of the border.

Two Technical Committees (TCs), one for Liberia and Sierra Leone respectively, will be established to provide strategic oversight, quality assurance and guidance for project implementation. The TCs will serve as the project management platform, overseeing the implementation status against the approved work plan, highlighting key results, challenges, lessons learned and highlighting any urgent issues or actions which need to be brought to the attention of the joint Project Steering Committee. Comprising representatives from key Ministries and project implementing parties, they will convene on a quarterly basis. A Joint Technical Committee composed of the Liberia and Sierra Leone TCs will meet twice during the project, ideally in person and at the field level.

The Project Steering Committee will be formed to take decisions, provide strategic oversight, quality assurance and guidance to the implementation of the project. It will also be in charge of navigating the project's political space and address any issues escalated by the TCs. The PSC will comprise of governmental officials, UN Resident Coordinators (RCs), PBF representatives and implementing partners. It will meet three times over the course of the project's implementation, virtually and once in person, ideally at the field level. A national SC could be set up based on need.

The secretariat of both the TCs and PSCs/ SCs will be the responsibility of the peacebuilding project coordinator (PPC).

An endline assessment will be conducted to compare the project's impacts with the initial baseline data collected at the project's inception. It will serve as a conclusive examination of the project's results and effectiveness, highlighting the changes and improvements brought about by the project during its implementation period. The endline assessment will serve as the basis for the final project progress report.

Building on the endline assessment, two learning events will be organised, one in each country, with the aim of sharing the project's impacts, reflecting on lessons learned and stimulating catalytic effects.

The final external evaluation will assess the impact of the intervention in enhancing sustainable and inclusive resource management, thereby fostering resilience and peace in the Sierra Leone and Liberia border areas. It will evaluate the strategies for sustainability and local ownership and assess the efficiency of resource management. An evaluation team with expertise in peacebuilding will be mobilized, consisting of an international evaluator and a one or two national evaluators, will be mobilized. Such a hybrid format will enable the incorporation of diverse perspectives and expertise,

while upholding the UN standards for such an exercise. An Evaluation Reference Group, comprising representatives from the four direct recipients, and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs), will provide guidance and oversight throughout the evaluation process. Finally, a <u>financial audit</u> will complement the external evaluation process.

Budget breakdown	
Activity	**Cost (USD)**
MEL staff costs	47,173
Baseline study	15,000
Joint inception workshop	12,638
Joint mid-term review workshop	12,433
AAP/Beneficiary Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms	4,993
Field assessment missions (8)	58,877
TCs meetings (4)	4,063
PSC meetings (2)	16,153
Community Data collection devices (Phones/tablets)	5,737
Implementing partner capacity building on MEL	4,993
Endline assessment	15,000
Learning events (2)	18,782
Final external evaluation	60,000
TOTAL	**275,842**
Share of the total budget	**7 %**

e) **Project exit strategy/ sustainability**

The project is designed with a clear vision for sustainability and a comprehensive exit strategy that ensures continuity of its impact even after the project duration. Recognizing the importance of nurturing and sustaining the relationships and initiatives fostered within the project, concrete measures have been incorporated into the project framework to ensure smooth and effective close-down. The sustainability of the project is found in the long-term financial and nonfinancial benefits that are achieved as a result of activities that the project will implement in targeted areas. Financial incentives will be in the form of livelihood benefits, increased access to livelihood opportunities, and potential payments for carbon credits, boosting the interest of the authorities and the communities in continuing to improve forest management.

The proposed support to communities to engage in carbon financing for the conservation of their community forest will be a pilot initiative for WFP. WFP will closely coordinate with the Gola Rainforest National Park to learn best practices derived from the ongoing REDD+ initiative, which has been implemented since 2013, with particular emphasis on how carbon credits can be most effectively managed and utilized by communities. Anecdotally, the dividends of the REDD+ scheme in GRNP are perceived to not having been equitably shared, with limited funds instead captured by customary leaders, with community members deriving few tangible benefits. Learning from this experience and for long-term sustainability, special attention will be placed on governance of the community forest carbon financing from the outset, including transparent and participatory election of leadership positions, group saving using the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) approach and financial record keeping for accountability. Benefitting communities will be able to report any issues faced to WFP using its tollfree Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism hotline. WFP and partners will also facilitate community-based planning to identify how any carbon windfalls can be equitably

and effectively shared by the community on shared priorities than can propel local development. Using this approach, subsequent carbon credits received should in turn resource the sustainability of this initiative.

Nonfinancial benefits from project interventions focused on improved forest management will be critical to sustainability of project results. This will include regulatory measures related to community ownership of forests, comanagement of protected areas with communities' engagement. The project will ensure ownership, implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable resource management practices among community members, forest rangers, border and security officials and CSOs.

To achieve this, community engagement and policing initiatives will actively involve stakeholders in monitoring and maintaining these sustainable practices. A participatory approach will be adopted, emphasizing broad consultations with all stakeholders. Community participation in decision-making processes and the resilience built throughout the project implementation will be crucial for sustaining coordination mechanisms. Emphasis will be placed on local-level meetings and initiatives, which can be easily replicated at the project's conclusion with minimal costs. Additionally, the project will facilitate exchanges among local authorities of both countries through virtual platforms like WhatsApp, ensuring continuity of communication and collaboration beyond the project's conclusion. By fostering trust-based relationships and collaboration among local communities, eco-guards, rangers, and border authorities, the project seeks to embed these practices into local land use planning and development efforts.

Furthermore, by facilitating the establishment of VSLAs, FBOs and cooperatives, promoting interdependent market relationships, and providing comprehensive training programs, the project will ensure the self-sufficiency and sustainability of the youth-led agricultural initiatives. As for the strategic linkage of FBOs to existing markets, it will guarantee a consistent demand for their produce, securing their long-term economic integration. Information on existing markets and various outlets for sale of produce from harvest of the project participants will be disseminated regularly during the community engagement forums. Additionally, WFP Liberia and Sierra Leone will link the farmers to existing market outlets created through the Home-Grown School Feeding programme on both sides of the border. Project participants and farmers groups will be encouraged include some of the commodities in the school feeding food basket when making decision on the crops to be cultivated. Farmers groups supported by the project will be encouraged to form cooperatives and registered with the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA). To ensure the sustainable impact of community empowerment in managing the Gola landscape, environmental laws and forest management policies will be made more accessible through comprehensive review and translation, bridging literacy barriers. By providing support through capacity-building the project lays the foundation for communities to actively contribute to and reap the rewards of environmental conservation.

In terms of institutional sustainability, both countries have recently shown a commitment to strengthening their bilateral relations. In January 2024, shortly after his inauguration, the President of Liberia hosted the Vice President of Sierra Leone. Similarly, in May, the President of Sierra Leone welcomed a delegation of Liberian ministers led by the Vice President as part of an information mission focused on leveraging efforts in transformational and human capital development. Furthermore, the launch of the National Platforms of the Republics of Liberia and Sierra Leone for the ECOWAS Cross-Border Cooperation Support Programme (ECBCSP 2023-2027) in April and May 2024 respectively, demonstrates their commitment to enhancing cross-border collaboration and regional integration.

The project will use this momentum by working through the MRU Secretariat to advocate for, steer, and foster the ideas and benefits to ensure competent government ownership of all project elements. Bilateral mechanisms at the national level, as well as the Gola Forest landscape coordination mechanisms such as the Inter-Governmental Peace Park Management Committee, will be further strengthened to enhance bilateral cooperation. Dialogues, workshops, consultations, and training sessions will be conducted in accessible locations and tailored to the needs of both governments. Agendas will be discussed and agreed upon to ensure they are useful and context specific.

The project focuses on training, including ToTs, and strong capacity building through consistent mentoring and on-site and on-the-job support to ensure that the investment is maintained after the project ends. Training opportunities will be identified and offered at both local and central levels, using technical experts to strengthen the government's ability to deliver training and upgrade skills and knowledge post-project. Equipment/SOPs will only be handed over after comprehensive training is delivered, and participants display sufficient technical knowledge and capacity. To ensure the continuity of this support, a comprehensive maintenance plan will be implemented, with designated personnel, trained technicians or support staff, assigned to regularly inspect, repair, and upkeep the provided equipment. To contribute to the sustainability of the support, the importance of providing key equipment needed to manage the protected forest will be emphasized to key government stakeholders during the engagements carried out under activity. The training of both Liberian and Sierra Leonean authorities will result in the homogenization of procedures on both sides of the border, contributing to the establishment of an integrated/harmonized forest and border management strategy.

Additionally, some partners have expressed interest in supporting the efforts of both countries to strengthen the management of the Gola Forest landscape. The EU is particularly involved through bilateral cooperation and project funding. For example, the EU is developing two projects: the two-year Community for Forest (C4C) and the five-year NaturAfrica, which will be implemented in two phases of three and two years, respectively. The two RUNOS are committed to raising awareness among international donors, such as EU and USAID,of the critical need for sustainable funding to manage the Gola Forest landscape across borders and to promote peace and prosperity. To achieve this, key decision-making bodies such as steering committee, coordination and implementation teams will include representatives from technical and financial partners, government agencies and civil society. This inclusive approach aims not only to inform future interventions, but also to ensure seamless coordination and synergy with other ongoing and future projects, donors and international financial institutions (IFIs). By leveraging the catalytic nature of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), we aim to increase our impact, catalyse further investments, and leverage resource mobilization opportunities.

Thus, to secure support from other (financial) partners, the project will proactively inform, communicate, and engage relevant national, regional, and international stakeholders, with the aim of creating a network of actors invested in the long-term sustainability of the initiative. For instance, in March 2024, IOM and WFP were invited to a workshop organized by WABILED for a cross-border review of their activities in the Gola Forest landscape. This collaboration provided valuable insights and led this project proposal to prioritize initiatives such as community engagement and policing, areas which are not currently addressed by the WABILED project or PAPfor. All through the project the same collaboration will be maintained to create synergy and inform future interventions.

IV.   Project budget

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

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

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

Fill out two tables in the Excel budget **Annex D**.

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

Annex A.1: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	Yes	No	Comment
Planning			
1. Have all implementing partners been identified? If not, what steps remain and proposed timeline	x		Yes, implementing partners have been identified.
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise? Please attach to the submission	x		TORs for the Peacebuilding Project Coordinator position have been attached.
3. Have project sites been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline	x		Project target areas have been identified based on the rapid field assessment and consultations held in Monrovia and Freetown.
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		Relevant ministries and local communities were consulted on the proposed intervention
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		Lessons learned from the other complementary projects has been drawn and will feed into the implementation of this project
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified? If not, what will be the process and timeline.	x		
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation site approaches, Government contribution?	x		The relevant line ministries in Sierra Leone and Liberia, at national and district/ county-level have been involved in the planning and design of the project and will be key partners for implementation
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	x		Project implementation arrangements were agreed upon between IOM and WFP based on their respective expertise. Special attention was given to defining a joint implementation strategy
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?	N/A		
Gender			

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
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		IOM's gender focal point with experience in the targeted communities reviewed the full proposal and added her inputs.
11. Did consultations with women and/or youth organizations inform the design of the project?	x		Consultations were held with local women and youth community-based organisations during the field assessment
12. Are the indicators and targets in the results framework disaggregated by sex and age?	x		
13. Does the budget annex include allocations towards GEWE for all activities and clear justifications for GEWE allocations?	x		

Annex A.2: Checklist for project value for money

Question	Yes	No	Project Comment
1. Does the project have a budget narrative justification, which provides additional project specific information on any major budget choices or higher than usual staffing, operational or travel costs, so as to explain how the project ensures value for money?		X	Project costs reflect operational needs and, where needed, justification is provided for specific costs
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		Unit costs were derived from similar interventions undertaken by the respective recipient organizations
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		The budget corresponds to the location of targeted communities (i.e. travel to remote locations) and planned beneficiary caseload based on information collected during assessments
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?			
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		One international staff under the convening organization will manage the project and two international staff in the recipient organization will support due to previous PBF management experience whilst the remaining will be national staff with specific expertise and knowledge of the local languages
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		Due to the labour-intensive nature of activities under Outcome 2, costs reflect the required inputs to achieve planned outputs and outcomes. WFP has a rigorous procurement policy in place to ensure timely, efficient and fair procurement of all goods in transparent manner. In addition, the purchase of project vehicles in each country by IOM is necessary and is a sustainable solution that will ensure the reliability and safety of transportation throughout the project period.
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		A vehicle will be purchased by each lead agency to meet the specific needs of field visits, including cross-border visits, as their current vehicles are over 10 years old with significant depreciation and are not suitable for the off-road conditions common in the project areas. While car rental is an alternative, the average cost is prohibitively high, e.g. from the Liberian side, USD 245 per day for Gbarpolu and USD 190 per day for Grand Cape Mount. These costs would escalate further if travel to Sierra Leone is required. Therefore, the purchase of a project vehicle is a cost-effective and sustainable solution that will ensure the reliability and safety of transportation throughout the project period.

8. Do the implementing agencies or the UN Mission bring any additional non-PBF source of funding/ in-kind support to the project? Please explain what is provided. And if not, why not.		X	The recipient organizations will leverage their previous experience and subject matter expertise to advocate for additional funding and support as component of the project's sustainability strategy.

Annex A.3

JOB TITLE: Peacebuilding Project Coordinator, International Consultant – P3 equivalent

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), created in 2005, is the United Nations' financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. In line with the Sustaining Peace resolutions (2016), the Fund supports activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation, and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development. The PBF is managed by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), with the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF-O) as its Administrative Agent, in charge of disbursing the funds at PBSO request.

The GOLA-REAP - Resilience, Empowerment, Access and Peacebuilding along Liberia and Sierra Leone border project is dedicated to nurturing strengthened relationships between local communities, forest rangers, and border authorities in the Gola Forest landscape along the Liberia and Sierra Leone border. By fostering collaboration and trust, the project facilitates the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts while also promoting sustainable resource management on each side of the border region of Liberia and Sierra and at the cross-border level. Moreover, it empowers disempowered youth in their communities by promoting climate-smart agriculture, thereby fostering resilience and deterring their involvement in illicit activities.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES (non-exhaustive)

1. Program Coordination
   - Chair and coordinate the project's technical committee meetings.
   - Coordinate all aspects of project implementation, including the preparation and delivery against a workplan, with a view to ensuring that activities support each other, and maintain a clear peacebuilding focus.
   - Foster communication and, where relevant, joint implementation among participating agencies to ensure coherence and synergies between outputs, aiming to achieve the set results and the overall outcome.
   - Plan and lead joint missions for the Technical Committee members for the midterm and annual progress reporting.
   - Support the identification, development, and management of potential strategic partnerships to contribute to project's goal and, as applicable and needed, to prepare the ground for a careful and successful exit strategy.
   - Work in close coordination with the IOM and WFP teams as well as with their implementing partners to ensure an integrated and timely approach to program implementation, addressing any challenges encountered.

2. Program Implementation
   - Ensure timely implementation of the WFP and IOM peacebuilding project in Sierra Leone and Liberia.
   - Ensure the timely procurement and distribution of tools and agricultural inputs by WFP to project beneficiaries, in alignment with the seasonal calendar.
   - Provide oversight for capacity development training to ensure high quality.
   - Ensure conflict sensitivity and 'Do No Harm' principles with a gender and youth focus are mainstreamed throughout project activities, supporting project partners accordingly.

3.Monitoring and Reporting
- Ensure the development of a MEL strategy during the project's inception phase.
- Ensure findings and lessons learnt are captured throughout the life cycle of the project.
- Ensure the daily, monthly, quarterly monitoring and coordination of the project across agencies and countries, in collaboration with the direct recipients' project team.
- Lead on drafting of progress reports, supported by the M&E Officer and focal points of the implementing agencies who are responsible for ensuring good quality of data shared with the M&E Officer.
- Develop and coordinate data gathering and monitoring systems ensuring that rigorous quality standards are maintained.
- Conduct regular site visits on both sides of the border to ensure well-coordinated project components.
- Reports to the project's Steering Committee.
- Monitor overall project expenditure to ensure alignment with the approved project budget.
- Ensure all partners develop visibility materials, including case studies, to showcase the impact of the project to UN-PBF and the public.

STANDARD MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS
- Education: Advanced University degree in Project Management, International Relations, Peacebuilding, Development Studies, Agriculture, Social Sciences or other field relevant to international development assistance. Alternatively, First University Degree with additional years of relevant work experience and/or training/ courses.
- Experience: A minimum of 5 years of field experience in project management and coordination.
- Strong demonstrated experience in peacebuilding.
- Language: Fluency (level C) in English.
- Experience in West Africa, particularly in Sierra Leone and/ or Liberia would be an advantage.

4Ps CORE ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITIES
Purpose
- Understand and communicate the objectives of the project.
- Be a force for positive change: Flexibly adapts individual contributions to accommodate changes in direction from supervisors and internal/external changes (such as evolving needs of beneficiaries, new requirements of partners).
- Make the mission inspiring to our team: Recognizes and shares with team members the ways in which individual contributions relate to the project.

People
- Looks for ways to strengthen people's skills: Assesses own strengths and weaknesses to increase self-awareness and includes these in conversations on own developmental needs.
- Create an inclusive culture: Participates in open dialogue, and values the diverse opinion of others, regardless of background, culture, experience, or country assignment.
- Be a coach & provide constructive feedback: Proactively seeks feedback and coaching to build confidence and develop and improve individual skills.
- Create an "I will"/ "We will" spirit: Participates in accomplishing team activities and goals in the face of challenging circumstances.

Performance
- Encourage innovation & creative solutions: Shows willingness to explore and experiment with new ideas and approaches in own work.

- Focus on getting results: Consistently delivers results within individual scope of work on time, on budget and without errors.
- Make commitments and make good on commitments: Commits to upholding individual accountabilities and responsibilities in the face of ever-changing country or functional priorities.
- Be Decisive: Makes rational decisions about individual activities when faced with uncertain circumstances, including in times of ambiguity regarding information or manager direction.

Partnership
- Connect and share across the agencies: Seeks to understand and adapt to internal or cross-unit teams' priorities and preferred working styles.
- Build strong external partnerships: Demonstrates ability to understand and appropriately respond to and/or escalate needs of external partners.
- Be politically agile& adaptable: Portrays an informed and professional demeanour toward internal and external partners and stakeholders.
- Be clear about the value of each agency and what they bring to partnerships: Provides operational support on analyses and assessments that quantifies and demonstrates impact of the project.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
Female applicants and qualified applicants from developing countries are especially encouraged to apply.

Annex A.4

Recipients	Job title	Key role	Level	Base	Contribution to the project (%)	Position with youth or gender expertise	Annual salary (gross amount) USD	Salary for project duration (24 months, USD)
IOM Liberia	Joint Project Manager/coordinator	Overseeing project implementation in both countries.	P3	Monrovia	100	Yes (will be specified in the recruitment process)	161,160	322,320
	Field Staff	Day-to-day management of the project on the field	G4 equivalent	Grand Cape Mount	100	Yes (will be specified in the recruitment process)	10,800	21,600
	Programme Support Officer	Provide guidance for programme implementation. The Project Support Officer is already onboard removing a delay in the recruitment process, and he will be under the	P2	Monrovia	40	Yes	38,400	76,800

		overall supervision of the Project Coordinator and the Chief of Mission to ensure the project's deliverables are met.						
	Project Assistant	Peacebuilding project focal point (co-ordination, engagement with stakeholders, writing of reports)	G/5	Monrovia	100	Yes	24,000	48,000
	M&E Officer	Overseeing the monitoring and evaluation of the project	G5	Monrovia	100	Yes	23,586	47,172
	Resource Management	Financial management and reporting	G/7	Monrovia	48	No	16,704	33,408
	IT/Procurement/ Finance/Driver	IT/Procurement/Finance/Driver	G/2-4	Monrovia	35	No	12,565	25,130
IOM Sierra Leone	Project Officer	Peacebuilding project focal point (co-ordination, engagement with stakeholders, writing of reports) The Project Officer is already onboard removing a delay in the recruitment process, and they will be under the overall supervision of the Project Coordinator and the Chief of Mission to ensure the project's deliverables are met. The P1 played a key role during the proposal development.	P1	Freetown	100	Yes	72,000	144,000
	Senior Project Assistant	Operational and logistics management	G6	Freetown (with frequent travel to targeted communities)	100	Yes (will be specified in the recruitment process)	12,500	25,000
	Finance Assistant	Financial management of activities	G5	Freetown	75	No	5,625	11,250
	Driver	Driving the team to targeted locations	G2	Freetown	100	No	4,000	8,000
	Programme Associate	Livelihood Programme associate	G6	Monrovia	80	Yes	11,799	23,599

WFP Liberia	Head of Programme	Provide overall guidance for programme implementation	NOC	Monrovia	20	No	28,216	56,432
	Monitoring Assistants	Monitor project implementation at field level	G4	Monrovia	30	Yes	7,471	14,942
	Finance Assistant	Financial reporting	G5	Monrovia	20	No	9,336	18,673
	Driver	Driving staff for project activities	G3	Monrovia	30	No	5,975	11,949
WFP Sierra Leone	Programme Policy Officer	Peacebuilding and gender focal point specialist	NOA	Freetown	100	Yes	14,143	28,286
	Programme Associate	Day-to-day management of the project	G6	Kenema	100	No	7,612	15,224
	Heads of Programmes	Strategic oversight and integration with other WFP programmes	P3	Freetown	20	Yes	63,949	127,898
	Head of Kenema Sub-Office	District level project oversight and support to implementation	UNV	Kenema	20	Yes	46,975	93,950
	Programme Policy Officer	Technical oversight of activities	NOB	Freetown	30	Yes	17,323	34,646

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

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

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

AA Functions

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

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;

- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;

- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially closed a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations' headquarters);

- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

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

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

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

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

Financial reporting and timeline

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

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

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

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

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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

Public Disclosure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reporting:

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

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Bi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an	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
28 February	Annual reporting – Report **Q4 expenses** (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
30 April	Report **Q1 expenses** (January to March)
31 July	Report **Q2 expenses** (January to June)
31 October	Report **Q3 expenses** (January to September)
Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure	

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

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

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

Public Disclosure

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

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

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

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement

are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

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

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

➢ Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation.
➢ Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (**NOTE**: If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches).
➢ Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant.
➢ Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (**NOTE**: If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
➢ Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project.[43]
➢ 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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[43] Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

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

Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators	Means of Verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: **Strengthened cross-border collaboration between communities, rangers, and border authorities leads to improved cross-border and Gola landscape management** *UNSDCF Liberia (2020-24): Outcome 3* *UNSDCF Sierra Leone (2020-24): Outcome Area 2* *SDG 5, 10, 16, 15* Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR: 103.186, 103.122, 143.238, 143.239, 143.241		Outcome Indicator 1a: Prevalence of illegal activities and encroachments reported along the Sierra Leone-Liberia border and within the cross-border regions of the Gola landscape as a result of improved collaboration between communities, rangers, and border authorities within the project duration Baseline: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study)* Target: *Yet to be determined, pending baseline study*	Baseline study, endline assessment, final project evaluation report	
		Outcome Indicator 1b: # of management objectives of the MOU between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Republic of Liberia on the management of the Great Gola Transboundary Peace Park implemented Baseline: 0 Target: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study*	Progress reports, endline assessment and final project evaluation report	
		Outcome Indicator 1c: % of local community representatives, rangers and border authorities reporting increased trust and collaboration between local communities, rangers and border authorities (disaggregated by gender and youth) Baseline: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study* Target: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study*	Baseline study, midline, endline assessment and final project evaluation report	
		Outcome Indicator 1d:. % of key provisions of the Sierra Leone-Liberia MOU on the cooperation in the management of the Greater Gola Transboundary Peace Park implemented effectively within the project duration. Baseline: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study* Target: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study*	Baseline study, midline, endline assessment and final project evaluation report	
	Output 1.1 *Collaboration for cross-border management and Gola landscape conservation enhanced through exchanges, coordination and joint initiatives*	Output Indicator 1.1.1: # of formal agreements signed between national and local authorities in Liberia and Sierra Leone explicitly supporting the application of the section of the ECOWAS Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, focusing on the Free Movement of Personnel assigned to work in the forest. Baseline: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study* Target: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study*	Baseline study, routine monitoring, endline assessment and final evaluation report	

	Activity 1.1.1: Facilitate harmonization of protocols and legislations related to transboundary forest management and conservation Activity 1.1.2: Conduct gender sensitive perception surveys Activity 1.1.3: Develop and support the implementation of action plans to improve transparency, accountability, and community participation in border and forest management Activity 1.1.4: Provision of key equipment Activity 1.1.5: Comprehensive implementation plan for community engagement and policing.	Output Indicator 1.1.2: # of transparency and accountability mechanisms implemented by border and forest management authorities, as identified through the gender-sensitive assessment. Baseline: 0 Target: 2	Activity report, progress reports, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 1.1.3: # of Action plans developed to improve transparency, accountability, and community participation in border and forest management Baseline: 0 Target: 2	Copy of action plans, activity report, progress reports, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 1.1.4: % of rangers and border officials that express that material support eased their mobility, communication and information sharing challenge Baseline: N/A Target: 75%	Field mission report, midterm, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 1.1.5: # of communities that started to implement community policing activities Baseline: 0 Target: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study*	Copy of comprehensive implementation plans, activity report, progress reports, final evaluation report	
	Output 1.2 ***Communities, local leaders and border authorities are empowered for sustainable resource***	Output Indicator 1.2.1: # of trained individuals through the cascading training program by the end of the project (gender and age disaggregated) Baseline: 0 Target: 120	Mapping and assessment report	

	management and peaceful conflict resolution			
	Activity 1.2.1: Cascading border and sustainable resource management training program Activity 1.2.2: Enhance relevant ministries' understanding and technical skills through national-level workshops covering key topics for policy implementation Activity 1.2.3: Capacity-building trainings of conflict resolution mechanisms members	Output Indicator 1.2.2: % of trained technical ministry staff who can provide concrete examples of how their new skills and knowledge were successfully applied in their work Baseline: 0 Target: 70%	Endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 1.2.3: # of dispute resolutions facilitated by the supported local peace mechanisms within the project duration Baseline: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study* Target: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study*	Post-meetings evaluations, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
	Output 1.3 *Community participation and cross-border cooperation are fostered for sustainable resource management and increased social cohesion* Activity 1.3.1: Annual Cross border Community Forum Activity 1.3.2: Conduct sensitization and awareness	Output Indicator 1.3.1: #. of best practices, lessons learned, and experiences related to sustainable resource management implemented by stakeholders following the forums. Baseline:0 Target: 4	Activity and progress reports, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 1.3.2: % of community members perceptions and attitudes towards sustainable resource management and cross-border collaboration following the sensitization and awareness campaigns conducted via radio and educational materials, (disaggregated by country, age, gender and stakeholder groups). Baseline: 0 Target: 75%	Pre- and post-campaign surveys or interviews, endline assessment, final evaluation report	

	campaigns via radio and educational materials Activity 1.3.3: Facilitate the organization of cultural, and sport initiatives for cross-border community engagement Activity 1.3.4: Support to locally driven trust-building initiatives of CBOs	Output Indicator 1.3.3: # of cultural and sport initiatives organized for cross-border community engagement. Participation rates in these initiatives from both sides of the border Baseline: 0 Target: 60%	Activity and progress reports, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 1.3.4: % of community representatives that feel that CBOs-led trust-building initiatives have contributed to increase social cohesion and sustaining peace along the border area (disaggregated by gender, age and country) Baseline: 0 Target: 60%	Endline assessment, final evaluation report	
Outcome 2: **Communities' resilience is strengthened through inclusive forest management and youth driven climate-smart agriculture livelihood support**		Outcome Indicator 2a: % of disempowered young women and men with increased monetary or non-monetary benefits from climate-smart activities by the end of the project duration (disaggregated by age, gender and country) Baseline: N/A Target: 70%	Baseline study and final evaluation report	
(Any SDG Target that this Outcome contributes to. As relevant, alignment to UNSDCF and/or Strategic Results Framework indicators recommended at outcome and output levels) SDG 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 15 (Any Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) recommendation that this Outcome helps to implement and if so, year of UPR) 103.184, 103.156, 103.153, 143.55, 143.129, 143.239		Outcome Indicator 2b: % of local communities expressing perceived changes in the involvement of disempowered youth in illicit activities (disaggregated by gender, age and country) Baseline: N/A Target: 70%	Baseline study, endline assessment, final evaluation report, police reports, border security records.	
		Outcome Indicator 2c: % reduction in conflicts within and between communities due to inclusive and sustainable management of community forests (disaggregated by country/ cross-border, women and youth involvement) Baseline: *Yet to be determined, pending baseline study* Target: 30%	Baseline study, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
	Output 2.1 ***Disempowered youth are empowered,***	Output Indicator 2.1.1: # of disempowered youth (including 1/3 of women minimum) working on 40 IVSs within the project duration (disaggregated by age, gender and country)	Progress reports, endline assessment, final evaluation	

	socio-economic resilience built, and natural resource management enhanced through climate-smart food production systems Activity 2.1.1: Identification of 2,000 disempowered youth to develop irrigation systems in 40 perennial Inland Valley Swamps Activity 2.1.2: Establishment of 40 Farmer Based Organisations (FBOs) and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) Activity 2.1.3: Comprehensive technical and life skills trainings to youth via FFSs of 2,000 youth Activity 2.1.4: Identification, training and empowerment of 40 Community Youth Contractors as grassroots agricultural technicians Activity 2.1.5: Provision of conditional cash transfers to youth and establishment of market linkages between FBOs market, home-grown School Feeding and other potential buyers	Baseline: 0 Target: 2,500		
		Output Indicator 2.1.2: % of disempowered youth expressing a perceived impact of FBOs on fostering a sense of collective responsibility and social integration among them (disaggregated by gender, age and country) Baseline: 0 Target: 80%	Routine monitoring, progress reports, endline assessment final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 2.1.3: # of disempowered youth who can provide concrete examples of how their new skills and knowledge were successfully applied over the duration of the project (disaggregated by age, gender and country) Baseline: 0 Target: 75%	Post-training assessments, progress reports, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 2.1.4: # of agricultural technical support and maintenance activities conducted by the 40 trained Community Youth Contractors within the targeted communities over the project duration (disaggregated by country, gender and age) Baseline: 0 Target: 80	Progress reports, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 2.1.5: % of disempowered youth expressing perceived financial security and investment opportunities improvement by the end of the project (disaggregated by country/ community, age and gender) Baseline: 0 Target: 70%	Records of savings and loans, routine monitoring, endline assessment final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 2.1.6: # of women actively engaged in managing compost enterprises within the 50 established FBOs over the project duration (disaggregated by age and country) Baseline: 0 Target: 600 (40% of 2000)	Activity reports, progress reports, endline assessment, final evaluation report	

	Activity 2.1.6: Women-led organic compost enterprises promotion and reforestation of degraded water catchment areas Activity 2.1.7: Provision of agricultural working equipment, processing machinery and tools, as well as short duration seeds Activity 2.1.8: Facilitation of cross-border fertilization meetings between youth FBOs	Output Indicator 2.1.7a: # of collaborative agricultural production and marketing activities facilitated through the shared use of agricultural resources and equipment among the established youth cooperatives (disaggregated by country) Baseline: 0 Target: 20	Listing of equipment provided, progress reports, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 2.1.7b: # of markets in the project's locations accessed by the participants for cross-border trade (disaggregated by country) Baseline: 0 Target: 4	Market assessment report, progress reports, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 2.1.8: # of joint initiatives, collaborative projects and replicated experience initiated as a result of cross-border fertilization meetings among youth Farmer-Based Organizations within the targeted regions by the end of the project (disaggregated by country/ cross-border dimension) Baseline: 0 Target: 20	Activity reports, progress report, endline assessment, final evaluation report	
	Output 2.2 ***Communities are empowered to manage community forests more inclusively and sustainably*** Activity 2.2.1: Multi-faceted community education program around simplified environmental laws and forest management policies Activity 2.2.2: Strengthening of 40	Output Indicator 2.2.1: % increase in community members' awareness of the environmental rights, responsibilities, and sustainable practices within Gola forest-edge communities (disaggregated by country, age, gender) Baseline: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study* Target: *Yet to be determined pending study assessment*	Baseline study, endline assessment, final evaluation	
		Output Indicator 2.2.2: # of women and youth actively participating in community-based resource managements structures Baseline: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study* Target: *Yet to be determined pending baseline study*	Baseline study, activity reports, endline study, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 2.2.3: # of community-driven mapping and demarcation conducted Baseline: 0 Target: 40	Baseline report, activity reports, routine monitoring, endline assessment, final evaluation report	

	community-based resource management structures Activity 2.2.3: Community-driven landscape mapping and demarcation Activity 2.2.4: Support to carbon trading initiatives Activity 2.2.5: Cross-border experience-sharing gathering	Output Indicator 2.2.4: # of successful carbon activities implemented within the project duration (disaggregated by country) Baseline: 0 Target: 40	Activity reports, routine monitoring, progress reports; endline assessment, final evaluation report	
		Output Indicator 2.2.5: % of community representatives engaged in carbon trading, highlighting increased confidence, enhanced collaborative efforts and application of shared knowledge in inclusive forest management (disaggregated by country, age, gender) Baseline: 0 Target: 70%	Activity report, endline assessment, final evaluation report	

[1] Sierra Leone and Liberia

Annex D: Glossary

Community Management Associations (CMA) & Local Consultative Committees (LCC): these are community level conflict resolution mechanisms. They are managed by community leaders to resolve conflicts between the community members.

Community Undercover Informants (CUIs) and Community Resource Group Members: These are volunteers from the communities who inform the GRNP forest rangers of illegal activities occurring in the protected forest areas. They also provide guidance on land boundary issues. They are managed and trained by GRC-LG in Sierra Leone.

Eco Guards (CEGs): these are community volunteers who work in collaboration with the forest rangers to gather information, report on illegal activities, educate and raise awareness amongst community members. They are managed under a project being implemented by the Liberian Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and SNCL, in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation-(WCF).

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): This is a regional political and economic union of 15 countries located in West Africa including Sierra Leone and Liberia.

European Union Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in Africa (EU PAPFor): the aim of the PAPFor programme is to slow and ultimately halt the loss of forests in Africa and promote sustainable solutions for their continued existence, with and for the benefit of local communities. Preparing for the next phase of the project.

Forest rangers: these are officials hired by GRC-LG and SNCL to patrol the protected forest areas.

Gola Landscape (aka Transboundary Peace Park): A protected forest that encompasses Sierra Leone's Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) spanning 85,000Ha across 3 districts (Kailahun, Kenema, and Pujehun) and Liberia's Gola Forest National Park covering 88,000Ha across 2 counties (Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu).

Gola Rainforest Conservation Limited by Guarantee (GRC-LG): the body that manages the Gola Rainforest Park in Sierra Leone. An implementing partner on the project.

International Organization for Migration (IOM): A United Nations agency specialized in migration and implementing the project.

Joint Border Security: A Liberian government coordination group at border points including officials from immigration, police, drug enforcement, customs, and revenue. The group is led by the immigration officer.

Mano River Union (MRU): This is a sub-regional organization of four West African countries including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Cote d'Ivoire. It aims to promote peace and security in the sub-region.

National Protected Area Authority (NPAA): The authority responsible for protecting and conserving the Gola Rainforest protected area.

Reducing Emissions for Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+): This is a global initiative to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance forest carbon.

Talking Drum Studios (TDS): A local civil society organization working on peacebuilding through community engagement and radio/tv programs. An implementing partner on the project in both Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Society for Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SNCL): the body that manages the Gola Rainforest Park in Liberia. An implementing partner on the project.

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS): This is a UN regional office that supports peace, security and democracy in West Africa and the Sahel.

West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development (WABiLED): This is a four-year project funded by USAID that aims to promote biodiversity conservation and climate resilient, low emissions development in West Africa, including Sierra Leone and Liberia. Preparing for the next phase of the project.

World Food Programme (WFP): A United Nations agency specialized in food assistance and implementing the project.

	Recipient Organization 1	Recipient Organization 2	Recipient Organization 3	Recipient Organization 4	Total	Tranche %
	IOM Liberia	IOM Sierra Leone	WFP Sierra Leone	WFP Liberia		
First Tranche:	$1,039,855	$644,066	$558,039	$558,039	$2,800,000	70%
Second Tranche:	$445,652	$276,028	$239,160	$239,160	$1,200,000	30%
Third Tranche	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Total:	$1,485,507	$920,095	$797,199	$797,199	$4,000,000	100%

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown

	Totals				
	Recipient Organization 1	Recipient Organization 2	Recipient Organization 3	Recipient Organization 4	Totals
	IOM Liberia	IOM Sierra Leone	WFP Sierra Leone	WFP Liberia	
1. Staff and other personnel	$ 527,258	$ 188,250	$ 150,000	$ 125,595	$ 991,103
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	$ 3,600	$ 31,920	$ 199,160	$ 202,094	$ 436,774
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	$ 158,920	$ 154,500	$ -	$ 17,134	$ 330,554
4. Contractual services	$ 230,161	$ 99,346	$ 175,941	$ 114,423	$ 619,871
5. Travel	$ 120,788	$ 91,222	$ 56,472	$ 31,895	$ 300,377
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	$ 170,517	$ 166,193	$ 163,473	$ 226,839	$ 727,022
7. General Operating and other Costs	$ 177,081	$ 128,471	$ -	$ 27,066	$ 332,618
Subtotal	$ 1,388,324	$ 859,902	$ 745,046	$ 745,046	$ 3,738,318
7% Indirect Costs	$ 97,183	$ 60,193	$ 52,153	$ 52,153	$ 261,682
TOTAL	$ 1,485,507	$ 920,095	$ 797,199	$ 797,199	$ 4,000,000