LIBERIA MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (LMPTF)

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



A participant writes on issues affecting women at an Advocacy Workshop on affirmative action, Lofa County, Northern Liberia-2020



Executive Summary

With a request from the Government and people of Liberia, and support provided by the UN system, the country established its first Multi-Partner Trust Fund in July 2018, following the first democratic transition from civilian president to another in more than 70 years, to address the remaining root causes of fragility in support of the country's efforts to sustain peace and implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the close of the reporting period, the LMPTF Portfolio had accounted for five projects, all of which were financed by the Peacebuilding Fund.

The Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative reforms and civic engagement Project: Findings from a recent evaluation conducted validated results of the project, which responded to the conflict analysis addressing some of the root causes of conflict, including the increased awareness of law makers and the executive branch of government on gender equality and women's empowermentelevating the importance of GEWE in Liberia. During the reporting period, a national stakeholders' consultation was convened to support the drafting of a Legal Aid Bill, which is intended to provide legal aid services to indigents who cannot afford. Although the government is under obligation to provide legal services to this category of clients, its limited resource capacity has affected prudent adjudication of justice.

The portfolio joined the global fight against the spread of COVID-19, supporting CSOs to mobilize 105 communities across Montserrado, Margibi, Nimba and Grand Bassa counties contributing to the overall low infection rate in Liberia. Twenty-one (21) CBOs were provided with small grants to conduct activities to stop COVID-19 transmission, promote peace building and social cohesion and provide community level social mobilization and awareness within selected communities. These interventions reached a total of 23,754 citizens comprising of 11,504 males and 12,250 females.

Sustaining Liberia's fragile peace was also assured by the portfolio through community based participatory planning approach, where the Sustaining Peace and Improving Social Cohesion through the Promotion of Rural Employment brought together 110 participants from two communities in central Liberia to jointly develop two Community Action Plans. The inclusive process was intended to initiate a dialogue within the target communities to co-exist and understand the drivers of conflict as well as identify a joint approach, "Planning together to sustain peace", to mitigate conflict. Participants included local government officials, CSOs and the project communities. The Community Action Plan CAP is being used by the communities to address their peace and development agenda. These communities are agriculturally based, utilizing alternative livelihoods as a means of income for rural families.

The portfolio also focused on youth rehabilitation and development through various initiatives including detoxification, provision of skillset and small grants through the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model to disadvantaged youth which helped to develop savings plans and borrow capital for small-scale enterprise development. Capacity of 317 youth (80 female and 237 male) across five communities was strengthened in VSLA which stimulates the local economy empowering mostly women and limiting potential of violent conflict. A total of L\$115,585 equivalent to US\$ 608 was generated and reinvested by the groups.

Several studies have identified the mismanagement of land as a major conflict trigger in Liberia. Support to land reform programs has engendered broader support from the PBF, World Bank and Sweden. The LMPTF Portfolio has been supporting the implementation of the Land Rights Act passed in 2018 and the Local Government Act to address some of the pervasive land related conflicts in Liberia. In preparation to addressing these protracted land related conflicts, several preliminary initiatives have been undertaken to guide implementation of both the LRA and LGA. To successfully implement the two Acts, capacity building of the LLA remains essential. The Fund continued to support the capacity of the institution based on its capacity needs assessment findings conducted by the Department of Land Policy and Planning that is responsible for the development of policies, laws, guidelines and regulations for the LLA. Existing alternative land dispute resolution mechanisms in western, central, and southeastern Liberia were assessed to determine the full extent of their operations and to ensure gender is mainstreamed in land ADR structures in conflict prone communities.

The Gender assessment provides insights into the current land dispute resolution processes and legal structures. These studies highlight the need for intensified efforts in mainstreaming gender and inclusivity in land processes which is evidently lacking. This result was achieved in collaboration with line ministries and other government institutions including with the NBC and LLA. These have been approved by the Office of the Legal Advisor (OLA) to the President.

Providing coordination and monitoring oversight, the Joint LMPTF/PBF Secretariat oversaw the daily functioning of the Fund and provided technical and management support to the Steering Committee. The support included the review of projects and their respective extensions, closure and evaluations. It coordinated programmatic and financial management at the fund level. It also provided oversight and quality assurance, reporting as well as addressing other programmatic issues.

1. SDG Achievements

The Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund (LMPTF) has five projects:

- (i) Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement
- (ii) Sustaining Peace and Improving Social Cohesion through the Promotion of Rural Employment
- (iii) Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia
- (iv) Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
- (v) Support to LMPTF-PBF Joint Secretariat

The portfolio accounts for a total of four projects, excluding the Secretariat, implemented by UN agencies. The fifth project supported the Secretariat's operations. Two of the four substantive projects, Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia and Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement have ended with end of project evaluation conducted. All four of the projects are aligned to SDGs 1,2,5,8,10,11,16 and 17. The

projects contributed to sustaining the peace in various areas including human rights, economic empowerment, and the promotion of national reconciliation and GEWE through various results under the different SDG goals.

The *Advancing Reconciliation Project* implemented interventions that contributed to SDGs 5, 10 and 16, building the capacities of Liberia's Law Reform Commission (LRC) and specialized committees at the Liberia National Legislature to review and align existing laws and bills to mainstream human rights, emphasizing gender equality and empowerment. Ensuring the implementation of Goal 5, the project supported advocacy against discrimination and abuse of women, premised on national and international policies including the National Action Plan for women peace and security and UNSCR1325, aside from the Domestic Violence Law passed on August 2019 by the Liberia National Legislature.

The portfolio joined the global fight against the spread of COVID-19, supporting CSOs to mobilize 105 communities across Liberia contributing to the overall low infection rate in Liberia. Twenty-one (21) CBOs were provided with small grants to conduct activities to stop COVID-19 transmission, promote peace building and social cohesion in communities and provide community level social mobilization and awareness within selected communities. These interventions reached a total of 23,754 citizens comprising of 11,504 males and 12,250 females.

Through the *Sustaining Peace and Social Cohesion Project*, the Fund continued its support towards the achievement of SDGs 2, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17. The Project promoted inclusive participation of women and men in promoting peace and social cohesion in six communities in central and northern Liberia through sustainable livelihood opportunities, which is helping to reduce inequalities in Lofa and Bong Counties. Project participants are engaged in agriculture cultivation, which has intensified interpersonal relations to jointly discuss and make decisions affecting their livelihoods. At every project location, there is a leadership structure that governs the affairs of each local project. The established leaderships include members of each project activity, for example low land farming etc, at local level. These structures are used to prevent and mitigate potential conflict in each project community, positively affecting adjacent communities.

The project on *Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia* responded to SDG 1, 2, 10 and 16. Buttressing peace and security through rehabilitation and economic empowerment has been paramount to this project. It provided psychosocial and mental health services to restore beneficiaries' dignity through a detoxification process. Majority of the target group were victims of narcotic drugs and alcohol abuse. Following the rehabilitation of these youth, the project provided skills training in the areas of plumbing, hair dressing, soap making, tailoring, building trades etc to restore hope through income generating initiatives-making them productive and independent. Some of the beneficiaries are self-employed owing to the empowerment provided by the Fund.

The Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms relates to SDG 5,10 and 16, which ensures the empowerment and mainstreaming of GEWE in land related conflict resolution mechanisms to reduce inequalities in the administration of land ownership as well as promote human rights at all levels.

LMPTF allocation was not based on specific SGDs as they were cross-cutting. The Fund supports projects that identify entry points to sustaining peace.

The Fund served as the intersection for the Government, international community, the UN system, and relevant stakeholders to sustain peace through the implementation of the SDGs in Liberia. It functioned as both a coordination framework and a financing platform to support the implementation of the Government's national development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), informed by the priorities of the Liberia Peacebuilding Plan.¹ The Fund's architecture builds on and reinforces the mechanisms set up for the implementation of the PAPD².

2. Achievements of the Fund

The PBF, through the MPTF Office, initially provided US\$ 4,097,495 million seed funding under its Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF), in 2018, to support the LMPTF portfolio consistent with the government's PAPD and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)³. The funds are channeled through qualified UN agencies to support the Government through three interventions. A fourth project provided start-up capital for establishing the LMPTF and funding for its Secretariat⁴. PBF in 2020 December, funded a fifth project at US\$3,996,522 to reinforce stability through strengthening land governance and dispute resolution mechanisms to promote peace and national reconciliation. Indicator results matrix (Annex-1) captures key outcomes indicator results of the five projects including the secretariat.

Key Results Structured per Outcome

Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement

The promotion of reforms including rule of law, human rights and accountability are captured under Outcome 1 "(Law-making, oversight functions of the Liberian Legislature and Law Reform Commission enhanced to review and align existing laws and bills for effective protection of human rights of all with emphasis on rights of socially marginalized groups)". Capacity strengthening of relevant legislative committees and CSOs to influence the development and passage of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) bills was undertaken by the project, which contributed to the increase awareness on SGBVs and enactment of gender sensitive laws.

The implementation of some of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) are highlighted under outcome 2 "(Transitional justice processes and institutional mechanisms increasingly facilitate the realization of right to truth telling, reparations to achieve national reconciliation and peace)". The government's efforts on national reconciliation and healing were supported by the project across Liberia, accounting for town hall meetings/dialogues in some of the most affected communities due to the country 14 years civil crisis. The Fund supported, in addition to achievements mentioned in the fund's 2019 report, a consolidated national reconciliation

¹ "Sustaining Peace and Securing Development" (document S/2017/282), endorsed by the UN Security Council. ² LPMTF Operational guidelines

³ This has since been succeeded by the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) which came into effect on 1 January 2020 to run until 31 Dec. 2024.

⁴ Additional funding of \$600,000 was provided in December 2019 for continued support to the Secretariat's coordination role until the end of December 2020.

action plan of 15 counties. The plan was endorsed by the president of Liberia at a national reconciliation conference in December 2020, attended by all the key stakeholders from all spectra of society including opposition, the clergy, youth, and women's organizations. The conference reinforced the implementation of the TRC recommendations including war and economic crimes court. Advocacy on the implementation of the TRC recommendation on war and economic crimes remained high, with the Liberia Bar Association drafting a bill as well as following up with the international community to support calls by Liberians.

Table 1 below shows project progress against some of the key indicators.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results		
Indicator: Government is effective in the areas of: Quality of public services, quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressure, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies. Target (December 2019): improvement by 1 point on the scale	 The project evaluation findings noted the Fund support to building capacity to review existing laws and drafting processes were commended by the legislature and its law drafting bureau and CSO representatives. The report also revealed the crucial role of the legislature and external oversight bodies, civil society organizations and the citizenry to influence legislative reforms to address conflict drivers and emerging human rights concerns. These actors were supported by the Fund to enhance legislative reforms. COVID affected the frequent gathering of stakeholders in the latter part of 2020. Awareness on legislative reforms increased in 2020, with most of the law makers and their constituents engendering discussions around ensuring independence of the legislature and its role in the formulation of laws that affect the greater good of society. 		
Indicator: Number of domestic laws amended and passed that respond to the rights of women and girls and other vulnerable groups. Target: At least two laws, amended and passed that respond to the rights of women and girls and other vulnerable groups.	• Since the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) was passed in 2019, there was no new law passed in 2020. Nevertheless, since the passage of the DVA, the project has supported 18 dialogues in five counties between women's group, community stakeholders and members of the national Legislature to proffer suggestions on the introduction for passage of two additional laws on Legal Aid and Affirmative Action. Discussions were ongoing around the passage of these laws.		
Indicator: Number of TRC recommendations implemented by the end of 2020.	• A national dialogue on reconciliation was held in 2020, where one of the recommendations was the establishment of war and economic crimes court. The president requested law makers to discuss the issues with their electorates and revert with a way forward. In 2019, A bill to establish a War and Economic Crimes		

Target : At least three recommendations from the TRC report will be implemented (reparations through memorials, apology and legal reforms).	 Court was submitted to the National Legislature by the Liberia Bar Association, a regulatory arm of lawyers in Liberia. The fund supported construction of memorials as common assets to communities that saw the massacres of innocent victims to address reparations. Construction work was ongoing when the project ended. UNDP committed to continue the construction after the expiry of the project.
Indicator: Number of County Reconciliation Action Plans developed by the end of the project Target: Seven	• In 2020, 15 county peace consolidated reconciliation action plan was endorsed by the president of Liberia at a national reconciliation stakeholders' conference. The consolidated action plan was based on an inclusive county specific national reconciliation dialogue supported by the fund in 2019 and 2020. The consolidated action plan has established a roadmap for the development of a National Policy on reconciliation.

Table 1: Advancing Reconciliation Project - Progress against key indicators

The Sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas:

Outcome 1 (Young women and men have increased access to local conflict resolution mechanisms, with a focus on land disputes, and become active agents of peace) contributed to enhancing peacebuilding and social cohesion in all six communities in Salala District, Bong County (Tumutu, Salala, Frehlala , Totota), Salayea District (Gangloata and Salayea Town) and Zorzor District (Yealla, Konia and Boi), Lofa County. The communities of Salala (including Tumutu and Frehlala) and Totota benefited from access to peacebuilding and dispute resolution capacities. Through their youth, women, elders, representatives of socio-economic groups, and decentralized units of line ministries, agencies and commissions, these communities have been increasingly capacitated to undertake community-based participatory planning. Using a participatory approach to build social capital, safe spaces were created for joint decision-making,

Outcome 2 (Rural young women and men have access to sustainable agricultural livelihoods addressing key drivers of conflict) supported peacebuilding initiatives through livelihood opportunities. The categorized beneficiaries began farming activities along the value chains of rice and vegetables. Those selected for the component in poultry production in Totota (Bong) and Ganglota (Lofa) were prepared for training on improved and sustainable poultry production. In Totota, Tumutu and Salayea youth have been trained, using hands-on farmers' field school model, and mentored on production of high-valued vegetables (onion, cabbages, tomatoes, sweet pepper, lettuce) whilst irrigation systems were constructed.

In Yealla northern Liberia, training on rice production has begun alongside production of rice on areas already constructed with irrigation super-structures. In Salala and Frehlala, central Liberia, rice fields have been planted following the harvesting of demonstrations plots. Informed by findings of the comprehensive value chain analyses on rice, poultry and vegetables, baseline studies, and shocks imposed by COVID-19, some activities of production and value additions were

slightly remodelled accounting more for beneficiaries' preferences and comparative advantages of communities. These interventions are intended at preventing conflict and improving social cohesion through employment opportunities and their impact on jobs, incomes, and skills.

Table 2 highlights progress on key project indicators.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results			
Indictor:Percentage change in perceptions among youth, women and local leaders of their own ability to prevent, reduce and cope with conflict and promote peaceTarget:at least 20% increase in perception change	 Aside from a scoping exercise that mapped youth, gender and land-related conflicts reported in 2019, there has not been any new findings, except for sporadic interviews conducted during monitoring, which revealed increased ability of project community members inclusive of men and women to prevent, reduce and cop with conflict, and promote peace. These skills have been demonstrated in Salala, Totota and Tumutu communities, where they managed to resolve potential conflicts that could have affected the smooth implementation of the project. For example, in Tumutu, beneficiaries were relocated twice by local authorities due to misunderstanding of the appropriate project location, after commencement of activities. This would have resulted into conflict had beneficiaries not been trained in conflict prevention and mitigation skills. An end of project evaluation will determine the full extent of youth's ability to prevent, reduce and cope with conflict. 			
Indicator: Percentage change in the number of land related conflicts and disputes in the project areas. Target: At least 25% reduction in land related disputes and conflicts by the end of the project.	• The project continued to support interventions including agriculture, business skills development as a means through which communities can co-exist in the promotion of peacebuilding and conflict resolution. These capacity building initiatives have helped to empower young vulnerable men and women to become productive citizens, with less attention to escalating conflict. Community-based participatory planning exercises in Lofa and Bong counties have strengthened bonds between communities that once felt excluded in decision making discussions. These communities were once deeply polarized because of the civil war. The participatory planning approach was used to build social capital in divided communities.			
Indicator : Percentage of targeted youth with access to sustainable agricultural livelihoods.	• 20% - i.e. is at least 240 beneficiaries are having access to livelihood activities accounting for those who commenced farm work in Salayea, Totota, Tumutu and Salala communities.			
Target : At least 50% of targeted youth (male: 50% and female: 50%)				

Table 2: Sustaining Peace Project - Progress against key indicators

Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia

Under Outcome 1, (Zogos/Zogesse in Montserrado County are socially reintegrated and peacefully co-exist with communities) support was provided for the psycho-social services of disadvantaged youth. The project ended with around 500 targeted beneficiaries benefitting from rehabilitation and reintegration support. The project empowered 15 psycho-social counsellors, six mental health clinicians and five pharmacists with technical skills-training and capacity building to enhance specialization for quality treatment for more than 500 targeted beneficiaries. This has resulted in significant progress in the stabilization of 321 disadvantaged youth (64% of 500) from drug addiction/use. Of these, 113 (35%) have been reunited with their families, and 196 (61%) reintegrated into communities.

In Outcome 2 (Improved access of 500 Zogos/Zogesse in Montserrado County to sustainable livelihood and employment opportunities to enhance their resilience to conflict and social tension) efforts towards training and income generation activities were undertaken.

Up to 508 youth (133 female and 375 male) gained vocational training skills across ten project communities. Technical skills included carpentry, electrical, tailoring, welding, and plumbing. Some beneficiaries were allowed based on their preference to receive small funding to engage in Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model, which allows members to develop savings plans and borrow capital for small-scale enterprise development. The model helps to capacitate and keep groups socially connected by building strong bond. There is a national apex of VSLAs setup with membership across the different political sub-divisions. So far, groups have saved a total of L\$115,585 equivalent to US\$ 608.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results			
Indicator : Percentage of Zogos/Zogesse accessing SRH, psychosocial, mental health and drug	• A total of 9,827 (more than the 670 targeted Disadvantaged Youth) disadvantaged youth accessed SRH, psychosocial, mental health and drug rehabilitation services at the MOH drop-in centers.			
rehabilitation services at the MOH drop in centers	• A total of 113 (48% of 321 stabilized from drugs) (61% females and 39% males) reunified with families whilst 196 (or 84) reintegrated into communities.			
Target: 100% (by end of				
project)	• These youth are positively contributing to their communities through self-help initiatives.			
Indicator: Percentage of project beneficiaries with livelihood skills	Some of the rehabilitated youths are engaged in productive livelihood initiatives. 508 youth (133 female and 375 male) gained vocational training skills across ten project communities. Technical skills included carpentry, electrical, tailoring, welding, and plumbing.			
Target: 100% (by end of project)				

Indicator specific progress is provided in Table 3 below.

 Table 3: SEED Project - Progress against key indicators

Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Outcome 1 (Authorities at national and local levels manage land allocation, registration and licensing processes in a more effective, transparent and inclusive manner reducing conflict) supported the development of a draft gender responsive monitoring system for land conflicts. The draft gender responsive monitoring system for use by relevant institutions including the Liberia Peace building Office (PBO), the National Centre for the Coordination of Response mechanisms (NCCRM), National Bureau of Corrections and the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) to monitor and ensure gender is mainstreamed in at every level.

The project is supporting land reform policies of government to strengthen its capacity to promote effective, transparent and inclusive processes. In 2020, four key deliverables resulted from this support: a comparative review and a gender assessment of palm oil out-growers' schemes in Indonesia and Malaysia, to inform possible development of out grower schemes in Liberia; a gender responsive out-grower scheme policy brief; a framework for gender 'due diligence' for business plans; and research on the coordinating mechanisms and challenges of relevant Government entities to improve support and monitoring to concessionaries and communities.

These studies provide knowledge on best practices in out-grower schemes and enhance the understanding of gender dynamics and how gender mainstreaming may improve the performance of such schemes. They inform the nature of the concession awarding processes in Liberia in areas of coordination support and monitoring. The Gender assessment further provides insights into the current land dispute resolution processes and legal structures around the same. These studies highlight the need for intensified efforts in mainstreaming gender and inclusivity in land processes which is evidently lacking. The outputs were achieved in partnership from line ministries and other government institutions including the NBC and LLA, and have been approved by the Office of the Legal Advisor (OLA) to the President.

Outcome2 (Existing semi-formal and informal land dispute resolution mechanisms are strengthened, more sustainable and able to reduce conflict in a more effective and gender responsive manner)

Efforts are being by the project to strengthen existing semi-formal and informal land dispute resolution mechanisms through the provision of support to structures including the women peace huts and MSPs. In the four target counties, 7 Women Peace huts, through support from a consultant will initiate the implementation of their financial sustainability plans. This will enhance their financial capacity to sustain their operations both in conflict resolution and peacebuilding thus contributing to conflict reduction.

The project has provided vehicle to the LLA Gender Unit to advance the implementation of the LLA Gender policy and the LRA. The vehicle facilitates the gender unit in reaching project communities thus contributing to improved gender sensitive service delivery. To further enhance the capacity of the LLA, a capacity strategy, Bill of Quantities and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed. The development of the BOQ and SOP was informed by a concluded needs assessment. The assessment, conducted in collaboration with the LLA, highlights capacity needs for county land offices and boards in the project counties. The Fund's support to capacity building is in responds to LLA five-year capacity building plan.

Indicator specific progress is provided in Table 4	below.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results
Indicator 1.1 % of members of the communities (disaggregated by sex, age) that coexist and express satisfaction on land allocation, registration and leasing processes Target At least 60%	Baseline study completed with the following results: 40% Men 20 % women 17% Youth
Indicator 1.2 Existence of an operational gender responsive monitoring system on land disputes. Target A gender responsive monitoring system on land disputes is in place	This was achieved. A draft gender responsive monitoring system for land conflicts was developed. The gender responsive monitoring system for land conflicts was developed for use by institutions including the Liberia Peace building Office (PBO) and the National Centre for the Coordination of Response mechanisms (NCCRM), National Bureau of Corrections and LLA.
Indicator 1.3 % of community members (disaggregated by sex, and age) that feel that women's rights to land are better respected Target At least 60% women and 60% men	The project conducted a baseline survey with the following results: 30% Men; 30% women 26% youth.
Indicator 1.4 % of community members (disaggregated by sex, and age) that have changed attitudes towards concessions and participation in violent demonstrations Target At least 50 % (50% women and 50% men)	The following results were informed by a baseline study: 16% men; 10% women 16% Youth
Indicator 2.1	A perception survey on "strengthening land governance and dispute resolution mechanisms' was completed and validated. The findings of

Number of land disputes resolved in targeted counties by semi-formal mechanisms (CLDMCs, SPRC, MSP, etc.) Target 20	the survey reveal that power and gender dynamics affecting land governance in Liberia are well understood as patriarchal. This is however not the case in areas where awareness and advocacy on land rights for women has been done by previous project interventions.
Indicator 2.2 % of community members (disaggregated by sex) that feel that their land disputes are being resolved more effectively and transparently Target 50% increase	To be assessed in 2021
Indicator 2.3 Number of semi-formal mechanisms in targeted counties that are financially sustainable (MSP, CLDMCs, peace huts) Target 7 Peace Huts	7 women Peace huts in targeted counties have developed their Business plans to support their financial sustainability plans and continued work in peacebuilding.
Indicator 2.4 % of women whose land disputes have been successfully resolved Target 60 % for both men and women	To be assessed in 2021

Table 4: Land Governance Project - Progress against key indicators

Support to LMPTF/PBF Joint Secretariat

The Secretariat continued to perform its roles and responsibilities during the reporting period. The Project has one outcome: Effective coordination, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and communication on the achievements of the LMPTF, including PBF's investment in Liberia and the sustained growth of investment in peacebuilding-related programmes through the PBF/LMPTF modalities. In 2020, the Joint LMPTF/PBF Secretariat continued its oversight and daily functioning of the Fund, and provided technical and management support to the Steering Committee, especially ensuring that the projects were coordinated to deliver results. The Secretariat also ensured prodocs were signed by the co-chairs (RC and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning). As a Joint Secretariat, it coordinated the implementation of four LMPTF and 2 PBF projects during the reporting period. The Secretariat coordinated the strategic priorities, and programmatic and financial management at the Fund level. It provided quality assurance for projects under the portfolio; and actively interfaced with the MPTFO for approvals, reporting and other programmatic issues. The

Secretariat liaised with RUNOs to ensure regular and effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation of projects. It also coordinated the realization of TWG and monthly technical Fund review meetings, as well as ensured donors' visibility through a well-structured communication strategy. M&E training and guidance were provided to the projects from planning to implementation. Followed up on findings and recommendations of the evaluability assessment conducted in 2019 to address key challenges that would have potentially affected effective delivery and smooth evaluation.

Table 4 shows progress towards one of the key project indicators.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results
Indicator: Percentage of satisfaction express with the support provided by the LMPTF/PBF Joint Secretariat to Stakeholders (disaggregated by: Steering Committee members, RUNOs, Government, donors, CSOs).	The secretariat sustained engagement with Government's partners, RUNOs, INGOs/CSOs, MPTFO and PBSO providing timely feedback to enquiries.
Target : At least 70% satisfaction rate (by end of project)	

 Table 4: Joint Secretariat Project - Progress against key indicators

All the four projects are aligned to five of the six UNDP signature solutions as indicated in the below table:

Project alignment	Signature solutions			
All three Projects	Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.			
Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative reforms and civic engagement	 Women's empowerment and gender equality Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies 			
Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms	 Women's empowerment and gender equality Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. 			
Sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment	 Keeping people out of poverty Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies Crisis prevention and increased resilience 			

	• Women's empowerment and gender equality
	• Environment: nature-
	based solutions for development
Socio-Economic Empowerment of	Environment: nature-
Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia	based solutions for development
	 Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies
	 Women's empowerment and gender equality

Lessons Learned

Increased in frequency of engagement between agencies improves interagency coordination and relationship, thereby improving delivery. During the reporting period, coordination gradually improved between and among agencies (RUNOs) implementing joint projects. Unlike in 20219, there were limited engagements and communication between agencies jointly implementing projects. This indirectly affected effective implementation.

3. Fund operational performance

The governance structure of the LMPTF remained the same. It includes a Steering Committee, Thematic Working Groups and a Secretariat. A change is envisaged by the end of 2021, when the fund comes to an end.

LMPTF Steering Committee: The Fund's key governing body is the Steering Committee (SC), which approved the three projects under review. The LMPTF Steering Committee provides strategic oversight and general supervision of the Fund. It is co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator and made up of two representatives from the Government, two representatives of UN Agencies, and two rotating representatives of the donors. In addition, one civil society representative, one World Bank representative, one EU representative, and one African Development Bank representative are invited as observers. The LMPTF's governance structure ensures national ownership. The Steering Committee takes its decisions by consensus and should meet bi-annually at the minimum. The SC has not met since November 2019. Nevertheless, the co-chairs (UN Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Finance & Development Planning) continued their respective responsibilities of reviewing and signing project extensions. The SC is expected to meet in 2021, to review the impact of LMPTF under which two of three substantive projects approved in 2018 have ended. The pending SC will review and approve at least one new project in 2021. Oversight modality of the SC will be modified to PBF after 2021.

Thematic Working Groups: The Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) review and prequalify project proposals and recommend their approval by the Steering Committee. They provide technical analysis and strategic advice to the Steering Committee, serve as coordination platforms, and support project implementation. Over the reporting period, one TWG was convened to review a proposed project. Comments from the TWG, which meet twice, were considered by the project team during design and helped to ensure participation by all partners leading to the approval of the concept by the SC.

LMPTF Secretariat: The Secretariat oversees the daily functioning of the Fund and provides technical and management support to the Steering Committee. As a Joint Secretariat, it coordinated the implementation of the three projects and other under the LMPTF and PBF. The Secretariat coordinated the convening of the SC on strategic priorities; and programmatic and financial management at the fund level. It provided oversight and quality assurance for projects under the portfolio; and actively interfaced with the MPTFO for approvals, reporting and other programmatic issues. The Secretariat liaised with RUNOs to ensure regular and effective monitoring and evaluation of projects. It also coordinated the realization of TWG and monthly technical Fund review meetings.

Risk management: Much did not change as was reported in 20219. The portfolio continued to regularly update its consolidated risk log based on identified risks. It enabled identification, monitoring and timely response to prevent slow down and/or non-implementation of planned activities. Key among the identified risks is the country's potential to relapse to conflict and violence because of remaining causes of fragility, including issues around land and political participation. This was continually monitored and addressed through consultation with the Government and the involvement of concerned parties. The RC's continued engagement with concerned parties created a level playing field for resolving potential conflict. Attempts of political interference and unwarranted pressure from government officials were noted as potential risks in 2019; this risk was reduced in 2020, with limited political interferences. High expectations among beneficiaries, partly caused by a long period of dependency on the UN and other partners were a marked risk in three projects implemented by RUNOs in 2019, which did not change in 2020. Support continued towards awareness creation activities to achieve a common understanding of project's expected outcomes. Inadequate financial resources remained a key risk for the Fund. PBF remained the only donor to the LMPTF, supporting one additional project in 2020 on Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms. The Fund was unable to attract additional financing in 2020, despite sustained efforts by the RC to publicize the Fund activities and strategic advantage among donors for support. These efforts will continue in 2021 to attract partnership to capitalize and strengthen the Fund, if it should continue beyond 2021.

LMPTF: The LMPTF will come to a close by the end of 2021 due to donor fatigue. Committing funding to the LMPTF will help to sustain the peace by buttressing gains achieved through the support of bilateral and multi-lateral partners in almost two decades. Although some individual projects have had catalytic funding from other sources, but the LMPTF as a portfolio has PBF as its only donor to the LMPTF since 20218. PBF funding support is largely premised on catalytic results. Multiple donors had expressed interests to support since the inception of the Fund, unfortunately these commitments were not realized. The LMPTF addresses critical peacebuilding gaps, post UN Mission.

Lessons Learned

Continued involvement of government partners in planning together with RUNOs has helped to build confidence and influence the speedy endorsement of relevant policy and programme documents by senior officials. The Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation through Strengthening Land Governance and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms Project has received the necessary political support from the office of the president, where two consultants are situated and working directly with the project.

Partnership with civil society organizations strengthened increased delivery and enhances decentralization of intervention to local levels where UN agencies are not present.

4. Fund Financial Performance

This section presents financial data and analysis of the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2020.

Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <u>http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/4LR00</u>

4.1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2020, 1 contributor deposited US\$ 7,986,844 in contributions and US\$ 2,576 was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US\$ 7,989,420. Of this amount, US\$ 7,986,844 has been net funded to 7 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 5,804,423 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund as of 31 December 2020.

	2019	2020	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions to MDTFs	4,097,495	3,889,349	7,986,844
- Sub-total Contributions	4,097,495	3,889,349	7,986,844
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	2,444	132	2,576
Total: Sources of Funds	4,099,939	3,889,481	7,989,420
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	3,150,001	3,697,566	6,847,567
Net Funded Amount	3,150,001	3,697,566	6,847,567
Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariatetc.)	947,484	191,793	1,139,277
Bank Charges	0	1	2
Total: Uses of Funds	4,097,485	3,889,361	7,986,845
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	2,454	121	2,574
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	0	2,454	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	2,454	2,574	2,574
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	4,097,485	3,889,359	7,986,844
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	1,819,267	3,985,155	5,804,423
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			2,182,421

4.2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 6 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December 2020.

The Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund is currently being financed by 1 contributor, as listed in the table below.

The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December 2020 through signed Standard Administrative Agreements, and deposits made through 2020. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2020.

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2019 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2020 Deposits	Total Deposits
Peacebuilding Fund	8,436,844	4,097,495	3,889,349	7,986,844
Grand Total	8,436,844	4,097,495	3,889,349	7,986,844

Table 6. Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

Figure 1: Deposits by contributor, cumulative as of 31 December 2020



4.3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA. As of 31 December 2020, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ 2,576.

Details are provided in the table below.

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec- 2019	Current Year Jan-Dec-2020	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	2,444	132	2,576
Total: Fund Earned Interest	2,444	132	2,576
Grand Total	2,444	132	2,576

Table 7. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

4.4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2020, the AA has transferred US\$ 6,847,567 to 7 Participating Organizations (see list below).

4.4.1 TRANSFER BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

Table 8 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 8. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization, as of 31December 2020 (in US Dollars)

Participating	Prior Year	s as of 31-	Dec-2019	Current Year Jan-Dec-2020			Total		
Organization	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
FAO	532,029		532,029				532,029		532,029
ILO	283,990		283,990				283,990		283,990
OHCHR	379,108		379,108	162,475		162,475	541,583		541,583
UNDP	1,074,954		1,074,954	1,191,185		1,191,185	2,266,139		2,266,139
UNFPA	350,000		350,000	150,000		150,000	500,000		500,000
UNWOMEN	295,939		295,939	1,588,240		1,588,240	1,884,179		1,884,179
WFP	233,981		233,981	605,666		605,666	839,647		839,647
Grand Total	3,150,001		3,150,001	3,697,566		3,697,566	6,847,567		6,847,567





4.5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year 2020 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2020 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/4LR00

4.5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In 2020, US\$ 3,697,566 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ 3,449,434 was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ 6,847,567 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 4,894,382. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 71 percent.

The agencies with the three highest delivery rates are: FAO (108%), OHCHR (100%) and ILO (91%).

Table 9. Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

			E	Delivery		
Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2019	Current Year Jan-Dec-2020	Cumulative	Rate %
FAO	760,042	532,029	171,987	401,219	573,205	107.74
ILO	405,700	283,990	115,509	143,852	259,361	91.33
OHCHR	541,583	541,583	196,164	345,418	541,583	100.00
UNDP	2,266,139	2,266,139	450,579	1,540,832	1,991,410	87.88
UNFPA	500,000	500,000	131,448	297,201	428,649	85.73
UNWOMEN	1,884,179	1,884,179	266,553	679,478	946,030	50.21
WFP	939,924	839,647	112,709	41,435	154,144	18.36
Grand Total	7,297,567	6,847,567	1,444,948	3,449,434	4,894,382	71.48

4.5.2 EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

Table 10 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Participating Organization.

Table 10. Expenditure by Project within Sector, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

-	/ Project No. and roject Title	Participating Organization	-	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
3 Sustaini	ng the Peace						
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for	FAO	On Going	760,042	532,029	573,205	107.74

	youth in conflict- prone areas						
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict- prone areas	ILO	On Going	405,700	283,990	259,361	91.33
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict- prone areas (Linked to PBF project#113990)	WFP	On Going	334,259	233,981	139,682	59.70
00114726	Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia	UNDP	On Going	900,001	900,001	798,136	88.68
00114726	Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia	UNFPA	On Going	500,000	500,000	428,649	85.73
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement	OHCHR	On Going	541,583	541,583	541,583	100.00

Grand Tota	Grand Total				6,847,567	4,894,382	71.48
3 Sustaini	ng the Peace: Tota	l		7,297,567	6,847,567	4,894,382	71.48
00119683	Sustaining peace & reconciliation through strengthening land governance & dispute resolution mechanisms	WFP	On Going	605,666	605,666	14,461	2.39
00119683	Sustaining peace & reconciliation through strengthening land governance & dispute resolution mechanisms	UNWOMEN	On Going	1,461,409	1,461,409	513,508	35.14
00119683	Sustaining peace & reconciliation through strengthening land governance & dispute resolution mechanisms	UNDP	On Going	730,490	730,490	632,538	86.59
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement	UNWOMEN	On Going	422,769	422,769	432,522	102.31
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement	UNDP	On Going	635,648	635,648	560,736	88.21

4.5.3 EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

Table 11 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Participating Organization.

Country	/ Project No. and Project Title	Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Delivery Rate %		
Liberia	Liberia							
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas	FAO	760,042	532,029	573,205	107.74		
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas	ILO	405,700	283,990	259,361	91.33		
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment opportunities for youth in conflict-prone areas	WFP	334,259	233,981	139,682	59.70		
00114726	Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia	UNDP	900,001	900,001	798,136	88.68		
00114726	Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia	UNFPA	500,000	500,000	428,649	85.73		
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative	OHCHR	541,583	541,583	541,583	100.00		

Table 11. Expenditure by Project within Country, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

Grand Total			7,297,567	6,847,567	4,894,382	71.48
Liberia To	tal		7,297,567	6,847,567	4,894,382	71.48
00119683	Sustaining peace & reconciliation through strengthening land governance & dispute resolution mechanisms	WFP	605,666	605,666	14,461	2.39
00119683	Sustaining peace & reconciliation through strengthening land governance & dispute resolution mechanisms	UNWOMEN	1,461,409	1,461,409	513,508	35.14
00119683	Sustaining peace & reconciliation through strengthening land governance & dispute resolution mechanisms	UNDP	730,490	730,490	632,538	86.59
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement	UNWOMEN	422,769	422,769	432,522	102.31
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement	UNDP	635,648	635,648	560,736	88.21
	Reforms and Civic Engagement					

4.5.6 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. See table below.

Catagory	H	Expenditure		Deveentere
Category	Prior Years as of 31- Dec-2019	Jan-Dec- 2020	Total	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff & Personnel Cost	259,169	421,102	680,270	15.07
Supplies, commodities and materials	24,324	166,323	190,647	4.22
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	33,127	174,209	207,336	4.59
Contractual Services	342,528	1,118,660	1,461,188	32.38
Travel	101,022	241,983	343,006	7.60
Transfers and Grants	181,011	284,881	465,892	10.32
General Operating	407,092	757,732	1,164,824	25.81
Programme Costs Total	1,348,272	3,164,891	4,513,163	100.00
⁵ Indirect Support Costs Total	96,676	284,544	381,219	8.45
Total	1,444,948	3,449,434	4,894,382	

Table 12. Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2020 (in US Dollars)

4.6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2020, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2020, US\$ has been charged in AA-fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ 284,544 was deducted in indirect costs by

⁵ **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ 381,219 as of 31 December 2020.

4.7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (http://mptf.undp.org). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

4.8. DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Secretariat services and overall coordination, as well as Fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. The latest transfer for direct costs was made in October 2020 for US\$ 191,793. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2020, US\$ 1,139,277 has been charged as Direct Costs.

Table 13: Direct Costs

Participating Organization	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Delivery Rate
UNDP	1,139,277	910,041	80%
Total:	1,139,277	910,041	80%

5. Conclusion-Way Forward

The LMPTF Portfolio has achieved some flagship results around alternative livelihoods through agriculture, economic empowerment of disadvantaged youth, reconciliation, gender equality and transitional justice, especially issues bordering on the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations that are resonating with the population. During the reporting period, Liberians sought closure to atrocities by calling on the establishment of war and economic crimes court to prosecute alleged perpetrators, some of whom are in Liberia. The LMPTF Portfolio remained relevant in sustaining the peace despite its limited funding, which will thaw at the

end of December 2021. This will further expose the country's fragile peace if care is not taken to sustain the peace through continued support to strengthening institutional capacity of peacebuilding infrastructures. The Fund's interventions were premised on supporting government due to its limited absorptive capacity to address potential relapse following the departure of the UN Mission. To ensure value for money through the maintenance of peace, the LMPTF strengthened institutional capacities to promote peacebuilding, human rights and rule of law related initiatives, while the LMPTF-PBF Joint Secretariat increased coordination and monitoring of the projects through field missions and its regular technical and coordination committee meetings, where projects reported progress, challenges and recommendations for a way forward- ensuring timely and effective implementation.

LMPTF Organogram

