

RAPID INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT – LIBERIA SDG PROFILE

UNDP undertook a Rapid Integrated Assessment of Liberia's Agenda for Transformation (AFT) 2012-2017 complemented with reference to the Economic and Stabilization and Recovery Plan (ESRP) of April 2015 which seeks to identify strategic interventions to stabilize and promote rapid economic and social recovery following the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis in Liberia. The assessment provides a gap analysis of the SDG targets not prioritized in the AFT. Such analysis can inform the formulation of the next Liberia's national development plan facilitating alignment to the SDGs based on national priorities.

Template 1 provides a quick visual overview of the SDG targets integrated in the 2012-2017 AFT and those that are not. It also shows the SDG targets that are prioritized by multiple sectors as captured in the AFT and the ESRP and missing linkages across sectors.

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Not prioritized Not applicable Missing inter-sectoral linkages

#	Policy Area/ Sector	SDG-1: Poverty					SDG-2: Hunger					SDG-3: Health								SDG-4: Education							SDG-5: Gender equality						SDG-6: Water and Sanitation							
		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	
1.	Wealth creation	X ^{1,2}	X ^{1,3}																																					
2.	Inclusiveness	X ³																								X ⁴														
3.	Security					X ⁵																																		
4.	Peace and reconciliation																										X ⁶	X ⁶												
5.	Justice and rule of law																											X ⁷												
6.	Judicial reform																																							
7.	MSMEs growth and financing				X ⁸ ¹²																																			
8.	Industrial development							X ⁹																																
9.	Regulatory environment																																							
10.	Property rights and contract enforcement				X ¹⁴																								X ¹⁵											
11.	International trade																												X ¹⁶											
12.	Macroeconomic and debt management				X ¹⁷																																			
13.	Monetary	X ¹⁸																											X ¹⁹											
14.	Power and energy		X ²⁰																																					
15.	Transport services																																							
16.	Roads and bridges																																							
17.	Public housing and buildings				X ²¹																								X ²²											
18.	Post and telecom				X ²³																																			
19.	Agriculture and food security					X ²⁴		X ²⁵	X ²⁶																															
20.	Forestry				X ²⁷																								X ²⁸											
21.	Mineral development and management																																							
22.	Education		X ²⁹			X ³⁰																X ³¹ ³³	X ³²	X ³⁴ ³⁶	X ³⁵	X ³⁷	X ³⁸		X ³⁹					X ⁴⁰						
23.	Health		X ⁴¹			X ⁴²		X ⁴³				X ⁴⁴ ⁴⁵	X ⁴⁶ ⁴⁷					X ⁴⁸											X ⁴⁹											
24.	Social protection	X ⁵⁰		X ⁵¹	X ⁵²	X ⁵³		X ⁵⁴ ⁵⁵											X ⁵⁶										X ⁵⁷											
25.	Water and sanitation		X ⁵⁸			X ⁵⁹																							X ⁶⁰						X ⁶¹ ⁶⁴	X ⁶² ⁶⁶	X ⁶³	X ⁶⁴ ⁶⁸	X ⁶⁵	
26.	Nation building and decentralization																																							
27.	Civil service																											X ⁷⁰												
28.	Public financial management																																							

Template 2 provides further details, including specific reference to goals and targets drawn from the AFT, and ESRP which constitute the starting point of the alignment analysis (different to the mapping exercise of the AFT against the SDG and Agenda 2063 undertaken at national level which took as the starting point the AFT key indicators). Template 2 shows as well (i) national indicators for specific targets drawn from the 52 key indicators of the AFT validated in 2014 and the AFT itself,¹ and (ii) responsible or lead institution overseeing implementation of the target.

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REGION	SUB-SAHARA AFRICA
HDI/Rank	0.430 (2014) 177/188 Source: UNDP HDR 2015
Inequality adjusted HDI	0.280 (2014) Source: UNDP HDR 2015
Nationally established MPI	0.374 (2013) Source: OPHI Liberia country briefing June 2016
Income Level	Low-income country
UN Development Status	Least developed country (New Deal country)
GDP Per capita	USD 455.9 (2015)
Population size	4.503 million (2015) Source: UNDESA World Population Prospects, 2015 Revisions

SDGs Goals/Targets	Thematic Area/Sector, as Identified in Key Government Planning Documents	National Development Plan	Identify National Indicators for the Specific Targets	Institution Responsible for Target implementation (line ministries) ¹	Any relevant comment related to this priority target area in the National Development Plan?
		Identify closest Goal/Target presented in Document addressing the issues in the corresponding SDG Goal/Target			
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere					
1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as	Inclusiveness (AFT Key objective 2) Wealth creation	- Increase inclusiveness for a more equal and just society ¹ - Accelerate growth for wealth creation ² - Recovering output and growth ³	- Share of people living below the poverty line (below 1 USD/day), (%,	MOFDP	

¹ See Annex at the end of the document for a list of acronyms.

The following observations result from the assessment:

1. The AFT prioritizes 65 SDG targets out of 106 (169 SDG targets minus 43 on means of implementation under each of the goals; 19 targets of Goal 17 on partnerships and target 14.7 which do not apply to developing countries). The analysis shows important gaps in terms of alignment which may help inform the formulation of the next national development plan to either confirm such SDG targets do not constitute priority at national level or work towards inclusion of relevant targets in the next planning process.
2. The SDG targets listed below are not integrated in the AFT. Since the analysis is based on the AFT and ESRP only, consideration of sectoral policies and strategies may reduce these gaps and should be taken into account while formulating the next national development plan to factor in the results and lessons learned from the implementation such policies and strategies.

¹ The Key indicators are meant to facilitate the monitoring of AFT implementation in terms of the direction and pace of progress, give insights and impulses to stakeholders on whether progress is in line with the AFT, and facilitate coordination. Source: LDA Proposed national key indicators to monitor the AFT, ppt presentation, 2014.

- 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

- 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
- 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
- 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.6 Ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources
- 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental

degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

- 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
- 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
- 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

1. Gaps are particularly prominent with respect to **Goals 12, 14 and 15 related to sustainable production and consumption; oceans, seas and marine resources; and terrestrial ecosystems, forests, land degradation and biodiversity, respectively**. It is worth mentioning that goals 12 and 15 are included among the 11 priority Goals for Liberia captured in the *Buchanan Communiqué on the SDGs* of November 2015.
2. The analysis shows that targets related to **Goal 10 on inequality** are prioritized under 16 of the 38 sectors of the AFT used for the analysis. This is in part due to the AFT's focus on vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, youth, women (gender equality), persons living with HIV and AIDS, and children (child protection). But also by the emphasis on smallholder farmers or youth and women, etc. in pillar II of the AFT on economic transformation.

3. The assessment equally highlights a **good coverage of Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies**.
4. **Resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to shocks and disasters, including those induced by climate-extreme events (ADG target 1.5), are not integrated in the AFT though are part of the ESRP** which defines strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability as one of three foreseen strategies for economic stabilization and recovery. Going forward, it may be worth reflecting upon the importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and resilience considerations as part of the national development planning process to strengthen the capacity of communities and the country as a whole to respond to crisis such as the EVD in future.
5. The integration of nutrition in AFT is limited (**target 2.2 on ending all forms of malnutrition**) with emphasis placed instead under the agriculture and food security sector, on the need for modernizing and enhancing productivity of the agriculture and fisheries sectors, including by strengthening smallholder agriculture. Revitalizing the agriculture sector is important in light of high levels of food insecurity in the country (less than half the population is food secure). Nevertheless, nutrition is equally important. According to the African Health Observatory² 42% of Liberian children aged under 5 years are stunted, increasing their risk of dying from normal childhood illness and risk of chronic illness later in life. The same source indicates a National Nutrition Policy (2009) and a National Nutrition and Food Security Strategy are available. Further exploration of this issue by reference to these sectoral policies and strategies and results of their implementation would be useful in the context of the next national development planning process and alignment to the SDGs.
6. AFT does not prioritize **target 3.4 on reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promoting mental health and deficiencies**. According to the World Health Organization³ non-communicable diseases currently account for an estimated 34% of death in the country. The same source indicates the country lacks operational plans, policies or strategies to address these diseases and risks factors. Given the relatively high rate of death associated to these diseases, it may be worth considering whether such gaps need to be covered in the next national development planning cycle. The African Health Observatory of the WHO indicates mental health though the subject of a national sector policy (2009) and part of the basic package of health services⁴ suffers from important implementation challenges.
7. Among the gaps exposed by the analysis, **target 3.7 related to access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning** is worth given attention to. The fertility rate is high and increased from 5.2 birth per woman aged 15-49 in 2007 to 5.9 births per woman in 2009. The country has a large share of youth population: 49% of the population is younger than

² http://www.aho.afro.who.int/profiles_information/index.php/Liberia:Analytical_summary_-_Food_safety_and_nutrition

³ World Health Organization (2014). Liberia. Non-communicable diseases (NCD) country profiles at http://www.who.int/nmh/countries/lbr_en.pdf

⁴ http://www.aho.afro.who.int/profiles_information/index.php/Liberia:Analytical_summary_-_Non-communicable_diseases_and_conditions

15 years old. On the other hand, Liberia's contraceptive prevalence rate is of 11.4% and unmet needs for family planning are high at 36%.⁵ Gender equality and women's empowerment are important to improve reproductive health as is access to a package of reproductive health services, including family planning.

8. The assessment shows that **target 11.3 on inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for human settlement planning and management is not integrated in AFT**. This in spite of the AFT recognizing that urbanization in Liberia –partly as a consequence of the civil war- is larger than in other low income countries. According to UNHABITAT,⁶ more than 40% of Liberia's urban population now lives in the Greater Monrovia area and an estimated 70% of Monrovia's population currently lives in slum conditions as a consequence of unplanned urbanization. While the AFT defines targets for ensuring access to public housing for the poor and transport services, for instance, there is no reference to broader issues of urban planning. This is important to ensure that increasing urbanization goes hand in hand with infrastructure development, planning for service provision such as health and education, and avoiding environmental degradation related to slums proliferation and concomitant health and other risks.
9. Reference to fisheries and marine resources in the AFT are sparse though fisheries is one of the sectors identified in the AFT as growth sector and in the National Export Strategy as a driver for trade expansion. Among the gaps exposed by the alignment assessment is **target 14.4 on regulating harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) practices**. According to Liberia's 2008 Diagnostic Trade integration Study undertaken under the auspices of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the fisheries sector is underdeveloped and suffers from important institutional weaknesses. The report specifically highlights the significant incidence of IUU practices⁷ which both undermine the resource base and government revenue necessary for development. Further analysis may be necessary to understand whether sectoral policies address this gap.
10. With respect to **means of implementation (Goal 17)**, the assessment shows the Government of Liberia have made emphasis on domestic resource mobilization in the AFT acting in several fronts: from improving public financial management in general, to increasing government revenue from mineral and forest resource exploitation, including by enhancing transparency and monitoring of activities by firms in these sectors. Financing of SDGs is a critical consideration for Liberia given its limited fiscal space further undermined by the EVD crisis. The ESRP stresses the importance of securing on-going budget support financing to cover the shortfalls resulting from the EVD crisis. It also underlines the need for development partners to disburse committed funds to Liberia for USD 1.6 billion and finance additional infrastructure projects for USD 1.2 billion. These issues were discussed in the context of the International Ebola Recovery Conference held in July 2015 which led to pledges of USD 500 million to support the ESRP.

⁵ World Bank (2011), Liberia. Reproductive Health at a Glance, April 2011 at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPRH/Resources/376374-1303736328719/Liberia41811web.pdf>

⁶ <http://unhabitat.org/events/liberia-national-urban-forum-2015/>

⁷ Liberia 2008 DTIS

11. In addition to domestic resource mobilization and ODA, the AFT seeks to create an enabling environment for **private sector development** as driver of growth and employment creation, and **trade development**, by strengthening value chains and increasing local value added. In this context FDI, access to regional and international markets, access to technology, etc. – all areas covered by different targets in Goal 17- are of relevance to Liberia. As the country defines its priorities for the next development planning cycle and implementation of the SDG an engagement strategy to mobilize the finance and partnerships to support the country's priorities would be useful.
12. The Key indicators for monitoring implementation of the AFT to a large extent seek data disaggregation by groups such as women and youth; and location –i.e. urban/rural and per county where applicable.
13. Template 1 without being exhaustive, highlights missing inter-sectoral linkages resulting from the AFT assessment. Further analysis is needed inclusive of relevant sectoral policies and strategies to confirm or not these gaps and identify others not covered therein. Beyond the gap analysis, it will be very important, responding to the integrated nature of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, to consider what is the best institutional framework to promote cross-sectoral collaboration throughout the development planning cycle - from situation assessment to prioritization, implementation of programmes and interventions, monitoring and evaluation, building on the national experience with the implementation of AFT and other sectoral policies and strategies.
