Liberia Social Safety Nets Project

Project Components

Liberia Social Household Registry

Aims at establishing the building blocks of an efficient and effective social protection system. It provides a single database of potential and actual beneficiaries and an integrated MIS to enable outreach, intake and registration, determination of potential eligibility for one or more social programs, and other business process of SP programs.

Social Cash Transfer

Aims at providing income support to about 12,500 extremely poor and food-insecure households in Liberia through regular cash transfers and accompanying measures focusing on nutrition and home gardening.

Social Protection Secretariat

Mainstreams Social Protection and provides government and sector coordination of all social welfare interventions.

IMPACTS ON EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND FOOD SECURITY

Defining Social Protection

The National Social Protection Policy and Strategy (2013) defines social protection as a package of policies and programs, implemented as part of public action that provide income or consumption transfers to the poorest, protect the most vulnerable against livelihood risks, and improve access to economic opportunities, with the aim of reducing food insecurity and deprivation, while increasing resilience of vulnerable households and groups to shocks.

Current Geographic Focus

- Social Registry
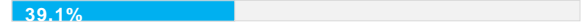- Social Cash Transfer
- Both
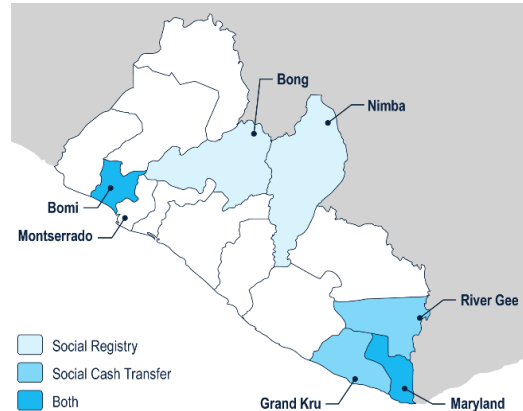
Liberia Key Indicators*

VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT
79.5%

ABSOLUTE POVERTY
50.9%
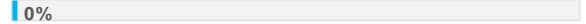
FOOD POVERTY
39.1%

MALNUTRITION
32.0%
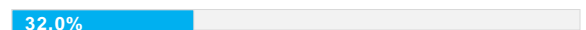
EXTREME POVERTY
16.5%
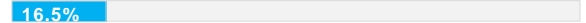
GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON SSN
0%

Source: LISGIS

Recent Developments

- **SCT** completes 5th and 6th combined payments to 3,307 beneficiaries in Maryland and Grand Kru Counties. Accompanying Measures is currently being implemented.

- Over 15 thousand households in urban Montserrado have received two transfers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Social Registry is currently cleaning data collected in Maryland, Nimba, Bong and Bomi Counties. Phase two of data collection exercise will be in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Grand Kru, Sinoe, River Cess and Grand Bassa Counties mid 2022.

- For the period of January to April 2021, the project received 1,396 grievance issues, and resolved 1,394 complaints.

SCT
Social Cash Transfer

The SCT Program

The SCT Program, financed by the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project, aims at providing income support to extremely poor and food-insecure households. It will provide cash transfers and accompanying measures to about 12,500 extremely poor and food-insecure households in Liberia.

It is being implemented in *Bomi*, *Maryland*, *Grand Kru*, and *River Gee c*ounties. These counties were selected because they have some of the highest rates of poverty and food insecurity in comparison to all other counties in Liberia.

It is planning to extend coverage to other counties based on new data and the availability of funds from the Government and partners.

Minister Tarr giving out cash to a beneficiary in Grand Kru

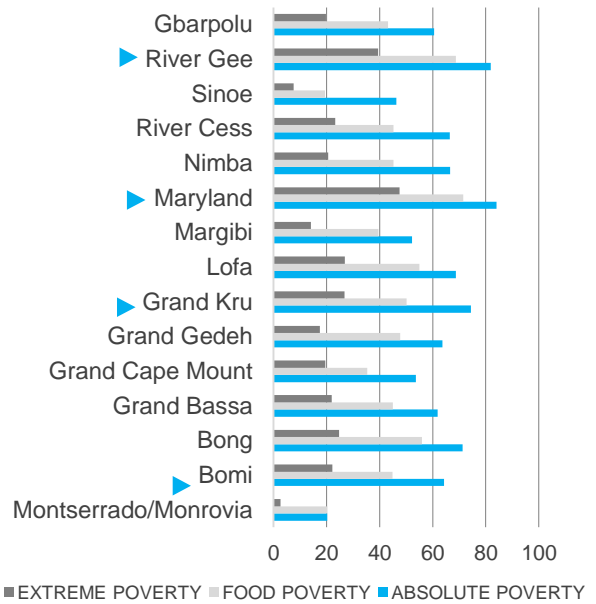## What are Accompanying Measures?

Accompanying measures, which can also be referred to as "Soft Conditions," are focused on building resilience.

They are meant to encourage beneficiaries to be productive with the resources being provided through behavioral change, training (health and agriculture) and additional inputs (e.g. seeds for home gardens).

SCT partners with MOH to provide health training and the MOA and service providers to support home gardens.

Together with cash transfers, accompanying measures promote better nutritional and human development outcomes.

Poverty Statistics, % *

Counties (top to bottom): Gbarpolu, ▶ River Gee, Sinoe, River Cess, Nimba, ▶ Maryland, Margibi, Lofa, ▶ Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Bong, ▶ Bomi, Montserrado/Monrovia

Scale: 0 20 40 60 80 100

■ EXTREME POVERTY   ■ FOOD POVERTY   ■ ABSOLUTE POVERTY

Source: LISGIS

Current Status

- **STC**-During the just concluded 5th and 6th SCT quarters combined payments, 3,303 beneficiary households received cash transfers in both Maryland and Grand Kru Counties. This was the second successful transfer since the SCT migrated to Mobile Money.
- Considering the changes on the payroll, 1,391 beneficiaries were confirmed and updated to receive transfers in Maryland County during the 5th and 6th SCT combined payments.
- under the **SCT-COVID-19** initiative, the project has transferred cash to nearly 15 thousand households in in urban Montserrado County. The urban cash transfer was intended to ease the burden on poor households caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The Accompany Measures aspect of the project has taken full swing in Maryland and Grand Kru Counties, after the onboarding of SARA, Civil Society Organization based in the Southeast.
- They are leading mass sensitization on home garden, at the same time distributing implements to a number of SCT beneficiaries in both counties.

LHSR
Liberia Household Social Registry

LHSR
MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
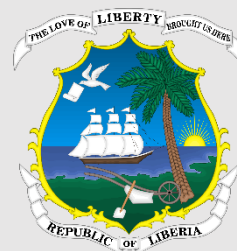
The Liberia Social Registry

The Liberia Household Social Registry (SR), is the government's information system that supports social assistance programs.

Financed by the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project, is to improve efficiency, enhance capacity, and strengthen the national social protection system in Liberia through the development of the basic building blocks of a safety net delivery system.

This component will finance the development of an SR—defined as an information system that includes data as well as MIS functions, to transform that data according to basic business processes for delivering social assistance. In particular, the SR gathers information on both potential and actual beneficiaries of SP programs.

What is a Social Registry?

Social Registries are information systems that support outreach, intake, registration, and determination of potential eligibility for one or more social programs (in which case it can be referred to as 'Integrated Social Registry'). In practice, social registries centralize data integration up front, collecting/compiling data for a registry of potential beneficiaries that is then drawn upon for eligibility determination of specific programs. They can also serve as powerful tools for assessing the "demand" for social programs by profiling specific needs and conditions of various population groups. In terms of their set-up, Social Registries vary significantly across countries (in terms of coverage, variables collected, institutional housing, approach to data sharing, etc.), affecting their potential uses.

Source: SocialProtection.org

Objectives

By building an Social Safety Nets delivery system, the Social Registry will:

1. strengthen the institutional framework for the delivery of national safety net programs;
2. facilitate the oversight and coordination of multiple safety net programs by the Government and implementing partners;
3. increase transparency and accountability within the management of each participating program;
4. avoid duplication of effort (for example, in data collection, household registration, and investments in separate MISs);
5. increase knowledge on poverty and vulnerability through a unified, single registry;
6. improve program efficiency by reducing unintended overlap in program coverage; and
7. increase the ability to respond swiftly to future shocks and scale up effective interventions.

Current Status

The LHSR is currently conducting data cleaning exercise, after a period of data collection in 4 counties: Bomi, Bong, Nimba and Maryland on-going.

- Data Collection in additional 6 counties: Sinoe, Grand Kru, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, Grand Bassa, River Cess expected to begin in June 2021.

- Validation of potential beneficiaries in Bomi and Maryland to begin, following data cleaning and Proxy Means Tests (PMT).

MIS-The MIS payment module and MTN mobile money Application Interface integration process has kicked off.

- The Social Cash Transfer data migration plan has been developed and expected to be done by the end of October 2021.

- The cross-program support module of the MIS development has been completed. modules.