

**THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**



Additional Financing for Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment  
(REALISE) Project

(P179035)

**Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)**

**Date: October 2022**

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**Contents**

<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>1.1 Purpose/Objectives of the ESMF.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>1.2 Rationale of the ESMF.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2.1 Project Components .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2.2 Project Location .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>2.3 Gaps observed and Lessons learned from parent project ESMF implementation .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>3. LEGISLATIVE &amp; INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3.1 Legislative Framework .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3.2 Institutional Framework .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>3.3 The World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE DATA .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>4.1 General Project Location .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>4.2 Land Environment .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>4.3 Physical Environment .....</b>	<b>39</b>
4.3.1 Meteorological Setting .....	39
4.3.2 Precipitation.....	39
4.3.3 Temperature and Sunshine.....	39
4.3.4 Geological Setting .....	39
4.3.5 Soil Type .....	40
<b>4.5 Biological Environment .....</b>	<b>42</b>
4.5.1 Fauna and Flora.....	42
<b>4.6 Socio-economic Environment .....</b>	<b>43</b>
4.6.1 Demography of the Project Counties .....	45
4.6.2 COVID-19 Pandemic and the Economy.....	46
<b>5. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS ...</b>	<b>48</b>
5.1 Potential Environmental Impacts.....	48
5.2 Potential Social Risks and Impacts .....	49
5.4 Proposed subproject activities and associated E&S Impacts/Risks .....	51

Component 2: Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers .....	53
<b>6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES.....</b>	<b>58</b>
6.1 Step 1: Environmental Screening .....	58
6.2 Step 2: Environmental and Social Assessment Studies.....	58
6.3 Step 3: Approval .....	59
6.4 Step 4: Management Plans (ESMP, WMP, SEA/SH Action Plan, and IPMP) .....	60
<b>7. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT AND ESMF.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>8. BUDGET FOR ESMF IMPLEMENTATION .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>9. MONITORING AND REPORTING OF ESMF IMPLEMENTATION .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>10. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>11. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>12. CHANCE FINDS PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>13. ESMF Disclosure.....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>14. Integrated Pest Management Plan .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>ANNEX 1: SUBPROJECT SCREENING CHECKLIST FORM .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>ANNEX 2: ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; SOCIAL MONITORING REPORT TEMPLATE .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>ANNEX 3: GENERIC PROJECT ESMP.....</b>	<b>96</b>

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1: Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Liberia .....	26
Figure 2: Map of Liberia .....	38
Figure 3: Geological overview of Liberia.....	40
Figure 4: Soil Type Distribution in Liberia .....	42

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1: List of small Business identify .....	17
Table 2: Summary of the relevant ESS’s, objectives, requirements, and relevance to the project. ....	29
Table 3: Project counties demographic information .....	46
Table 4: Proposed subproject activities and associated E&S Impacts/Risks .....	51

Table 5: Environmental Management Plan Budget..... 62  
 Table 6: ESMF Monitoring Indicators. .... 63  
 Table 7: List of stakeholders at different levels by project component ..... 66  
 Table 8: Stakeholder consultations held during preparation of ESMF and key outcomes. .... 70

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AF	Additional Financing
CBOs	Community based Organizations
CLAS	Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support
CHS	Community Health and Safety
CfWTEP	Cash for Work Temporary Employment Project
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia
EPAG	Empowerment of Adolescent Girls & Young Women
EPML	Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environment and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoL	Government of Liberia
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IDA	International Development Association of the World Bank

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IPF	Investment Project Financing
IPMP	Integrated Pest Management Plan
LLA	Liberia Land Authority
LACE	Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment
LIPW	Labor-Intensive Public Works
LYEP	Liberia Youth Employment Program
MFDPM	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MIS	Management Information System
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoL	Ministry of Labor
MPs	Management Plans
MYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PDO	Project Development Objectives
POM	Project Operations Manual
PMT	Project Management Team
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
REALISE	Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment
RFP	Request for Proposal
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SCT	Social Cash Transfer
SEA/H	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Harassment

UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USD	United States Dollars
YOP	Youth Opportunities Project

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**INTRODUCTION:** This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) builds on the ESMF of the REALISE parent project. Several sections of the document have been updated to take into consideration the risks and impacts, as well as experience from the implementation of the ESMF of the parent project, lessons learned and gaps identified and proposed mitigation measures of the expanded components of the parent project and the new components 5 and 6. Additionally, it ensures the requirements of the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework and Liberian environmental laws and regulations are adhered to. Updated sections include implementation arrangements, policy and administrative frameworks, project components and objectives, and potential risks and impacts as well as generic mitigation measures, and Integrated Pest Management Plan, and the budget for implementing this updated ESMF.

This ESMF will be used by the Project Management Team (PMT) as well as the project implementing institutions which are: the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) and the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection(MGCSP); as well as other collaborators and stakeholders to ensure that environmental and social safeguards concerns are adequately addressed in the sub-projects to be implemented under the REALISE project.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION:** The Development Objective of REALISE is to increase access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector in response to crisis, expand income and livelihood support to poor and food insecure households, and improve efficiency in managing social protection programs in Liberia.

As such, the project is designed to provide business recovery grants to targeted small (household) businesses which have been negatively affected because of COVID, start-up grants in the second phase of the project, Life skills and business management trainings, small-scale community-based public works subprojects, consumption smoothing through community livelihood and agriculture support, and social cash transfer. Activities of the project will be carried out under the following six components: Component 1—*Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses (Support to small businesses/SSB)*, Component 2—*Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers(Activity: Support to vulnerable informal sector workers)*, Component 3—*Capacity Building and Project Implementation and Coordination*

*(Support to capacity and system building), Component 4—Contingency Emergency Response Component,(This Zero-value component will be revised to reflect MGCSP as one of the implementing agencies),, Component 5 - Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support (Support to vulnerable youth and local farmers) and, Component 6 – Social Cash Transfer and Strengthening of the National Social Protection System (provide income support to poor an food insecure household).*

**GENERAL POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK:** Several national policies, regulations and laws are applicable to this project including the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, specifically Article 7, which sets the basis for legal and institutional framework for the protection and management of the environment in Liberia, the Environmental Protection Agency Act (2003), National Environmental Policy, and the Environment Protection and Management Law (EPML, 2003). Section 6 of the EPML places a mandatory requirement for environmental screening and/or Environmental Impact Assessment of all investment works or projects that are likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts with subsequent issuance of licensing or permitting from the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) as stipulated in the legislation. Other relevant laws and policies include the EIA Procedural Guidelines, the Liberia Freedom of Information Act (2010) and the Social Protection Policy of Liberia (2013).

The project is prepared under the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The environmental and social risk rating of this project is Substantial. Eight of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) are relevant to this project. The relevant ESSs include the following:

1. Environmental and Social Standard 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts;
2. Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions;
3. Environmental and Social Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management;
4. Environmental and Social Standard 4: Community Health and Safety;
5. Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restriction on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement
6. Environmental and Social Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources;
7. Environmental and Social Standard 8: Cultural Heritage; and

8. Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.

**INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK:** Several institutions are responsible for environmental and social governance in Liberia, including the EPA and relevant ministries and agencies, and other governance structures at the level of the local government. However, the EPA is the lead agency for management of the environment in Liberia. Other agencies and ministries with environmental management responsibilities that the EPA coordinates with include the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), and the Ministry of Public Works (MPW). Other institutions, including the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and the Ministry of Labor (MoL) have various responsibilities and coordinate with the EPA as well.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS:** Overall, the project is expected to have beneficial environmental and social impacts because the emphasis is on supporting the types of activities that will not just minimize negative environmental impacts but also promote enterprises that will have positive impacts on the environment. The project is expected to increase access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector, expand consumption smoothing support to poor and food insecure households, and strengthen social protection system in Liberia with at least 50 percent of the beneficiaries expected to be female. Despite the enormous, expected benefits, several environmental issues could arise from some project activities that may adversely impact the environment as well as give rise to social risks that will need to be addressed. Activities under the public work and community livelihood and agriculture support components could give rise to pollution of land, ground and surface water, and air pollution. The proposed activities under Components 2 and 5 may result in other direct and indirect environmental risks, such as community health and safety, pollution and release of chemicals and effluent into waterways, land and soil degradation and contamination, management of waste, genetically modified crops, labor-related issues, and loss of biodiversity. The procurement of agriculture inputs will generate solid waste that will have to be managed properly in a manner that does not end up in haphazardly disposed of them. Such waste can include the packaging material of the procured agricultural inputs such as plastic/nylon covers, nylon bags, and carton boxes. And the pollution of rivers or waterways with fertilizers, through runoff may also negatively affect aquatic ecosystems. If fertilizers and especially pesticides are not handled while taking the proper precautionary measures and using suitable PPEs, it might lead to adverse health effects on the workers handling these materials. However, these risks are expected to be site-specific, local, reversible, and mainly temporary, and appropriate risk mitigation measures are outlined in this document.

Project beneficiaries, especially women, are likely to be exposed to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEA/H) by project implementation staff during recruitment and project implementation. There is also the risk of “elite capture”, where project benefits may not reach targeted population. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, the risk of beneficiaries and project staff being exposed to and contracting the disease may increase if protocols are not properly observed.

**MITIGATION MEASURES:** The Potential E&S impacts of project activities will be mitigated by several measures, which will be instituted to ensure that the project potential risks and impacts are mitigated. These measures will range from ensuring that environmental and social considerations are considered in project design to ensure that site-specific plans are developed and implemented. For example, the PMT has (i) developed a “Negative list” (Annex 4) to exclude highly polluting or environmentally detrimental activities from being financed under the project; (ii) ensure that subproject activities are screened using a checklist (Annex 1) and appropriate site-specific actions plans are developed to address issues related to occupational health and safety (OHS) as well as community health and safety (CHS), pollution, waste management, etc.; (iii) design measures that will take into account universal access philosophy, including access to information, process to raise grievance and other issues; (iv) ensure the participation of the vulnerable, disadvantaged and women groups in project design, decision making and implementation; (v) develop and implement SEA/SH action plan throughout the lifecycle of the project; (vi) ensure Code of Conduct for project workers is developed and widely disseminated to project staff and staff of contractors; (vii) ensure that COVID-19 protocols are in place and adhered to; (viii) prepare Resettlement Framework and or develop a Resettlement Action Plan where necessary; and (ix) ensure the implementation of the Integrated Pest Management Plan and Biodiversity Management Plan. Additional mitigation measures include: (i) introducing a transparent eligibility criterion, including use of lotteries in case of oversubscription; (ii) Providing personal protective equipment and training for project staff and project beneficiaries participating in or involved with the public activities.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING STEPS:** The ESMF provides detailed steps that will guide project implementation to ensure that project activities are properly screened, risks and impacts are identified, and mitigation measures are instituted. The detailed steps also ensure that the national EIA requirements are followed, and approval and permits are obtained as required before implementing project activities. The project will be required to screen all subproject activities using project E&S screening checklist and the negative list, prepare and submit a Notice of Intent and Project Brief that are consistent with requirements set out in the EPML and the 2021 Revised Environmental and Social Impact Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessment (ESIA/SEA) Procedural Guidelines, and submit to the EPA for determination of the level of impact assessment that will be required by the project. The output

from the screening process determines whether a proposed project falls within the remit of the Regulations, whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore requires an assessment, it also identifies the necessary E&S instruments to be prepared for the subprojects. For example, a site-specific ESMP for moderate risk subprojects and ESIA for substantial risk subproject activities. Once that determination is made, the project will proceed to develop the required instruments. When the instrument required by the EPA is less stringent than that of the Bank's, the more stringent requirement will apply and vice versa.

#### **INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT AND ESMF**

***The Project Management Team:*** Following the experience of the Young Opportunities Project (YOP) and that of the parent project, there will be a single PMT consisting of consultants hired by MYS, MGCSP and LACE to manage the overall implementation of the project. The PMT will coordinate project implementation, including organizing regular Project Steering Committees (PSC) and National Social Protection Steering Committee (NSPSC) meetings. The PMT will also be responsible for developing all guidelines, establishing appraisal mechanisms, and working collaboratively with the three implementing entities to ensure consistent and regular flow of information between internal and external audiences. The PMT will have the following key officers: (i) National Project Coordinator; (ii) National Social Protection Coordinator, (iii) Program Managers for economic inclusion and social assistance programs; (iv) Procurement Officer, (v) Financial Management Officer; (vi) Communications Officer; (vii) M&E Officer; (viii) a Social Safeguards Officer and an Environmental Safeguards Officers, (ix) GRM Officer and (x) a GBV Specialist. Key specialists and other relevant officers deemed necessary for implementation of various interventions will form part of the PMT as well. The National Project Coordinator will serve as the link between the implementing agencies, external stakeholders, and the policy and coordination committees. The functions of PMT members will be detailed in the updated POM.

**GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM:** Two grievance redress mechanisms have been established under the parent project. One for project workers, and the other for beneficiaries, citizens, and stakeholders – with various channels for submitting grievances. The GRM system under the AF will build on those of the parent project with various channels already being operational (including community, country, and nation-based Grievance Redress Committees (GRC), SMS/hotline, project website, etc.). Management and resolution of complaints will primarily lie with the GRCs, which consist of community elders and include representatives of venerable groups (women, youth) at various levels. Cases unresolved at lower levels will be escalated to higher levels. The project's GRM Officer will be responsible to ensure GRM is operational, including logging and tracking all complaints received and their timely resolution, which will be tracked via an indicator in the project's Results Framework. A GRM structure for GBV/SEA related complaints will be developed and integrated, including multiple channels to initiate a complaint

and specific procedures for SEA/SH such as confidential and/or anonymous reporting with safe and ethical documenting of SEA/SH cases.

**BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTING ESMF:** To ensure effective implementation of activities in the ESMF, an estimated itemized budget has been developed and incorporated into the overall project cost. The activities should also be covered in the project annual work plan and procurement plan as necessary. The provisional budget covers seven main items including the cost of maintaining the environmental safeguard officer and social safeguard officer, the GRM Officer, and hiring a GBV Specialist for the entire duration of the project, the cost of E&S capacity building trainings and workshops that will be required during project implementation, the cost of preparing project-specific E&S instruments, the cost of waste management, the cost of operationalizing a Grievance Resolution Mechanism, the cost of implementing an Integrated Pest Management Plan, and the cost of monitoring implementation of project E&S documents, including the ESMF. The estimated budget for these activities for the entire duration of the project is One million, three thousand United States Dollars (US\$1,003,000).

**MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE ESMF IMPLEMENTATION:** Monitoring is required to ensure that all the required environmental and social mitigation measures set out in the ESMF for the project are implemented satisfactorily. The objective of monitoring is to ascertain that the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented and that there is compliance with the terms and conditions for approvals under the project. Some monitoring indicators include the number of safeguard trainings and workshops conducted, the number of subprojects screened as evidenced by screening forms, number of site-specific plans developed as required, and number of grievances recorded and resolved. Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on environmental and social issues will form part of the overall project implementation processes. As required by the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) of the AF, contractors will be required to submit monthly E&S report that covers environmental, social, and health and safety performance of the project.

**STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS:** This ESMF is an update of the ESMF developed for the REALISE parent project and as part of the process, consultations were held with stakeholders involved in project implementation and regulatory functions, civil society actors, people with disability, youth groups, community representatives including potential project beneficiaries, and other stakeholders from the private sector. The Project Management Team held separate stakeholder consultations in January and November 2022. The intent was to inform policy makers and key stakeholders about the project extension through AF and solicit relevant information that would aid the project design.

**ESMF DISCLOSURE:** Public disclosure of E&S documents is a requirement of the World Bank as well as the national environmental impact assessment laws and guidelines, and therefore the

ESMF of the AF will be available to project affected groups, local NGOs, and the public at large. The PMT will make copies of the ESMF available in selected public places as required for information and comments as well as in the media and on the website of implementing entities.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Liberia continues to grapple with challenges that threatens development, ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic to the current food and fuel price increases, emanating from the supply chain disruption because of the war in Ukraine. The rising cost of food and other basic commodities is contributing to increased food insecurity and hardship for extremely poor households due to Liberia's high dependence on imported food. The compounding negative impact of the pandemic and food and fuel price increases on the livelihood of rural communities, especially those engaged in agriculture, is significant.

While urban areas in Liberia experienced higher numbers of COVID-19 cases as compared with rural areas, lockdowns and travel restrictions instituted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic led to loss of income for many poor households whose primary source of livelihood is subsistence farming. In addition, labor productivity for these households was greatly reduced as farm produce could not be processed or stored, thereby going to waste. The losses from farm productivity in turn reduced these households' ability to fully re-engage in their livelihood activities at the pre-COVID-19 levels. With majority of the poor living in rural communities, the lasting impact of the pandemic, coupled with the current high cost of food and fuel, are expected to significantly impact the livelihoods of rural populations in the country. This in turn reduces potential for human capital accumulation and impacts overall stability in the country as well.

Faced with these multiple challenges, the government requested the World Bank's financial and technical support to coordinate with development partners and increase social protection intervention coverage through an additional financing to REALISE in the amount of US\$30.5 million. The government recognizes the Bank's convening power and international expertise as key to a coordinated approach in establishing a national social protection platform for supporting recovery of the poor and scaling up immediate support in both urban and rural areas. The AF is aimed at supporting the Government of Liberia's effort to increase access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector, expand consumption smoothing support to poor and food insecure households, and strengthen social protection system in Liberia.

The project is designed to provide funding for a number of small grants for business recovery, maintenance and startup, skill training, and small-scale community-based public works subprojects in the urban area. In the rural areas, the project will provide vulnerable youth with immediate consumption smoothing support through Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support and provide support to vulnerable and food insecure households through social cash transfer (SCT).

### 1.1 Purpose/Objectives of the ESMF

The ESMF is intended to be used as a practical environmental and social tool during formulation, design, implementation, and monitoring of REALISE AF. This framework will adhere to during project preparation and implementation for ensuring environmental and social integration in planning, implementation, and monitoring of project- supported activities. To ensure good environmental and social management practice under REALISE-AF, the ESMF will provide guidance on pre-investment works/studies (such as environmental and social screening, environmental and social assessment, environmental and social management plans, Resettlement Framework, etc.), steps, processes, procedures, and mechanisms that guarantee for ensuring adequate level of environmental and social consideration and integration in each investment in the project-cycle; and describe the principles, objectives and approaches to be followed to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts. Additionally, the ESMF will facilitate compliance with the relevant environmental policies, regulations, and laws of Liberia as well as with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). The ESMF will also guide the preparation of detailed ESMPs during project implementation as appropriate to the project components/sub-components. The specific objectives are:

1. To integrate the environmental and social concerns into the identification, design and implementation of all project interventions in order to ensure that they are environmentally sustainable and socially feasible.
2. To ensure compliance with national laws and regulations, and World Bank requirements.
3. To establish clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social planning, categorization and typology, review, approval and implementation of subprojects to be financed under the Project.
4. To specify appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline the necessary reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to subprojects.
5. To determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF.
6. To estimate the project funding required to implement the ESMF requirements.
7. To identify practical resources for implementing the ESMF.
8. To provide a guide for the selection of projects that are to be eligible for financing or investment under the AF.

## 1.2 Rationale of the ESMF

The AF seeks to expand the parent project by increasing the scope and targeted number of beneficiaries, and costs while new components will be added to support poor and food insecure households in rural communities and strengthen the country's social protection system.

With a change in the parent project development objective and the addition of two new components to the parent project, and increase in the geographical reach, number of beneficiaries and reallocation of the number of beneficiaries across the new geographical areas of the components 1 and 2, the project environmental and social management framework has been updated to include the new founding activities under the additional financing. The new components will support vulnerable youth and other community members living in rural areas through its community livelihood and agriculture support component and support extremely poor and food insecure households through regular cash transfers.

The community livelihood and agricultural support component will provide inputs and technical support to engage beneficiaries in community level farming activities. These farming activities are likely to generate direct and indirect environmental risks, such as community health and safety, pollution and release of chemicals and effluent into waterways, land and soil degradation and contamination, management of waste, etc. To manage these environmental risks, the ESMF provides the necessary background for environmental and social considerations, an E&S screening checklist (Annex 1) of potential issues, a negative list of the project activities to be considered and built into the design of the project, and preparation of site-specific plans. Like the project implementation manual which guides the overall implementation of the project, the ESMF will serve as the reference guide on environmental and social issues. The ESMF is a living document and will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed.

Activities under the public works intervention have made ESS5 relevant. Although the informal users of public spaces are subject to frequent eviction, this practice in eviction of squatters and encroachers does not meet the requirements of the WB's standard on involuntary resettlement (ESS5). Similarly, the agriculture activities, although less likely to occur, may require land acquisition, restriction, or relocation. As a mitigation measure, the project has updated the Resettlement Framework of the Youth Opportunity Project which implemented similar activities.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The parent project is financed through a US\$5 million IDA credit and a US\$5 million grant. The project aims to increase income earning opportunities for vulnerable households in the informal sector whose livelihoods have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Interventions under the parent project target will benefit 19,000 households and vulnerable workers in the informal sector in urban Montserrado County (Greater Monrovia). The project has the following four components: (i) grant support to vulnerable households to revive or start small businesses; (ii) temporary employment support and employability development for vulnerable workers; (iii) capacity building and project implementation and coordination; and (iv) Contingency Emergency Response Component - CERC. The project became effective on October 1, 2021 and is scheduled to close on June 30, 2024.

With the increasing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current food and fuel price increases resulting from the war in Ukraine, the need to expand social protection intervention has become increasingly important. A variety of interventions supported by the government and development partners were put in place to address the impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable households during and immediately after the height of the crisis. However, coverage under these interventions was low owing to limited fiscal space and low implementation capacity. In addition, a significant number of social protection programs supporting the rural poor had either been scaled down or discontinued prior to the pandemic and even during the crisis, which further increased the risk for extremely poor households in rural settings falling deeper into poverty. Faced with these multiple challenges, the government requested the World Bank's financial and technical support to coordinate with development partners an increase of social protection coverage through an additional financing to REALISE in the amount of US\$30.5 million.

The additional financing will address the funding shortfall currently existing under component 1 of the parent project and introduce two new components. One of the new components (Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support (CLAS) will focus on providing income-earning opportunities to rural community dwellers who are struggling to find gainful livelihood opportunities following the COVID-19 crisis through community-level interventions in eight counties in Liberia. While the other, (Social Cash Transfer (SCT) to Vulnerable and Food Insecure Households) will focus on providing income support to extremely poor and food-insecure households through regular cash transfers.

### 2.1 Project Components

The REALISE project is a social protection project of the Government of Liberia with support from the World Bank. The project is designed to increase access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector, expand consumption smoothing support to poor and

food insecure households, and strengthen social protection system in Liberia. The AF has the following six components:

**Component 1: Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses**

The AF will increase the number of beneficiaries and cost of the component as well as expand its geographic coverage. There is an uptake of demand for Component 1 interventions as gathered during stakeholder and community consultations conducted with community leaders and the County Steering Committee members in May and August 2022. It is proposed that the AF will increase the number of beneficiaries from 4,000 to 4,450 to bring in additional communities outside of the Greater Monrovia area and to include communities from urban communities in neighboring Margibi County. Accordingly, eligibility criteria and the targeting tool will be revised from its current focus in Greater Monrovia area. Therefore, the remaining number of beneficiaries yet to be enrolled under this component will be redistributed to accommodate new communities under the expansion instead of its originally identified 20 communities under the parent project. Furthermore, based on implementation to date, there is a funding shortfall of US\$600,000 to cover the benefits package for beneficiaries and cost of service providers owing to higher implementation costs than originally anticipated. Hence, to address the above adjustments, the total costs for Component 1 will be increased to US\$4,600,000. A menu of possible small businesses to benefit from Component 1 is given in Table 1.

Table 1: List of Small Businesses identified

Category of Fundable Activities	Menu of Possible Activities
<b>Trades and Retail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing</li> <li>• Hair and skin product sale</li> <li>• Fruit and vegetables</li> <li>• Food supplies</li> </ul>
<b>Production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soap making</li> <li>• Baking</li> <li>• Block making</li> </ul>
<b>Fishery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish preservation and packaging</li> </ul>
<b>Technical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cellphone repair</li> <li>• Auto and motorbike mechanics and services</li> <li>• Metal fabrication</li> <li>• Construction</li> <li>• Painting</li> <li>• Carpentry and joinery</li> <li>• Plumbing</li> <li>• Electrical</li> </ul>

<b>Waste and Sanitation Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling</li> <li>• Garbage collection <i>Car Wash</i></li> </ul>
<b>Category of Non-fundable Activities</b>	<b>Menu of Non-fundable Activities</b>
Activities that require the procurement of specialized large equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of large-scale equipment, e.g., big tractors</li> </ul>
Activities that contribute to degradation of the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deforestation, sand mining, etc.</li> </ul>

**Component 2: Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers**

The AF will increase the number of beneficiaries and cost of the component as well as expand geographic coverage of the component to more urban areas in Montserrado and neighboring Margibi Counties. Like Component 1, there is an uptake of demand for this component’s intervention. It is proposed that the AF will increase the number of beneficiaries from 15,000 to 17,000 not only from Greater Monrovia communities but also from urban communities in neighboring Margibi County. Accordingly, eligibility criteria and the targeting tool will be revised from its current focus in Greater Monrovia area. Therefore, the remaining number of beneficiaries yet to be enrolled under this component will be redistributed to accommodate new communities under the expansion instead of its originally identified 150 communities under the parent project. Hence, to address the above adjustments, the total costs for Component 2 will be increased to US\$6,000,000. Improving the environment and general living conditions for the poor and vulnerable in Montserrado and Margibi focuses on community activities that improve the local environment such as solid waste management (including through street and beach cleaning), building sanitation facilities, drainage clearance, painting of public buildings, and rehabilitation of public spaces.

**Component 3: Capacity Building and Project Implementation and Coordination**

The funding allocation to the component is being increased to reflect the overall expansion of the parent project’s scope. Also, a sub-component will be added to reflect the addition of MGCSF as one of the implementing partners. The component will continue to finance costs related to project management and coordination, audits, communication, training, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The allocation to the component is being increased to enable implementing agencies to expand technical support for the implementation of additional activities and reflect the extended project duration. With expansion of project’s locations to counties outside of

Montserrado, the component will support the recruitment of county-level consultants to supervise implementation of activities as deemed necessary. Moreover, a stronger emphasis on rigorous evaluation and monitoring will be introduced, with a focus on the use of technology to enhance remote monitoring. The funding allocation to the component is being increased to reflect the overall expansion of the parent project's scope. Also, a sub-component will be added to reflect the addition of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSPP) as one of the implementing partners. The project's overall management costs remain capped at 12 percent of the financing. Specifically, the changes to the sub-components are provided below.

**Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC)**

This zero-value component will be revised to reflect MGCSPP as one of the implementing agencies. Upon activation of the CERC, funds allocated for activities that are the responsibility of MGCSPP cannot be reallocated to activities implemented by the MYS or LACE without the express consent of the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection. Conversely, project funds allocated for activities that are the responsibility of MYS or LACE cannot be reallocated to activities implemented by the MGCSPP without the express consent of the Minister of Youth and Sports and of LACE Executive Director, respectively.

**Component 5: Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support (CLAS):**

This component is aimed at improving livelihood opportunities and climate resilience for poor and vulnerable populations in rural areas in Liberia, directly responding to the current crisis. The component will support up to 13,000 vulnerable youth and local farmers living in rural communities in Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Lofa, Bong, Grand Gedeh, Nimba and Sinoe Counties with inputs and technical support to engage in community level farming that will help recover or strengthen their income generation potentials. Activities under the component will be similar to those implemented under the CLAS component of YOP and will enhance the productivity of staple and/or other food crops using sustainable production methods in addition to providing life skills and sensitization to beneficiaries on sustainable agricultural practices. Considering gaps observed and lessons learned from YOP, the AF will include support to market linkages, and the development of small-scale community-level infrastructure that facilitates livelihood activities as part of the overall support package for participating communities. The component will (i) support BFGs to develop subprojects that will outline linkages between production, processing, and marketing for each project community; (ii) use community structures to facilitate an agreement between the BFGs and their communities to have access to a farmland for up to three consecutive years; (iii) provide farm startup grants of up to US\$1,800 (equivalent of US\$60 per member) to each farming group to help them procure needed inputs, including seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, tools and equipment; (iv) provide life skills training and promote climate smart agriculture practices among beneficiaries; and (iv) incentivize each beneficiary with a labor subsidy of up to US\$350 in the initial phase of the program to help smoothen consumption during the lean season.

**Component 6: Social Cash Transfer (SCT) to Vulnerable and Food Insecure Households:**

This component will provide income support to the poor and food insecure households in selected counties as well as support the strengthening of the national social protection system. These two overarching goals are currently being operationalized in the LSSNP, implemented by the MGCSP, which is scheduled to close on June 30, 2023. Under the proposed AF, the government's ongoing Social Cash Transfer (SCT) program under LSSNP will be expanded to support targeted households in Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Rivercess and River Gee Counties. The cash transfers help poor households mitigate economic shocks, smooth consumption over time, and enable long-term human capital development. Furthermore, to facilitate the effective delivery of cash transfers as well as improve the targeting of social protection programs more broadly, the AF will also strengthen the national social protection system. To date, the country has established the LHSR which currently contains data from households across five counties. Additionally, digital information systems, namely the social registry information system (SRIS) and integrated MIS, have been developed as an integral part of the LHSR. Nevertheless, the coverage, visibility, and uptake of LHSR is still limited and its accompanying information systems have potential for further development and increased functionality.

**2.2 Project Location**

Except for Maryland that currently has an intervention supporting vulnerable households, the AF will be implemented in 14 out of 15 counties in Liberia. Generally, Liberia lies on the West African coast just 300 miles north of the Equator. It has a relatively long coastline of 350 miles. From the lagoons and mangrove swamps of the coastal plains, the land rises evenly along its length in belts parallel to the coast, from rolling hills, through a broader region of plateaus and low mountain ranges, into the foothills of the Guinea Highlands. Half of the country is covered by tropical rainforests.

Tropical rain forests cover the hills, while elephant grass and semi-deciduous forests make up the dominant vegetation in the northern sections. The equatorial climate is hot year-round with heavy rainfall from May to October with a short interlude in mid-July to August.

Liberia watershed tends to move in a southwestern pattern towards the sea as new rains move down the forested plateau off the inland mountain range of Guinee Forestiere, in Guinea. Cape Mount near the border of Sierra Leone receives the most precipitation in the nation.

The highest point wholly within Liberia is Mount Wuteve at 1,440 meters (4,724ft) above sea level in the northwestern Liberia range of the west Africa Mountains and the Guinea Highlands. However, Mount Nimba near Yekepa, is higher at 1,752 meters (5,748ft) above sea level but it is not wholly within Liberia as Nimba shares border with Guinea and Ivory Coast and it is their tallest mountain as well.

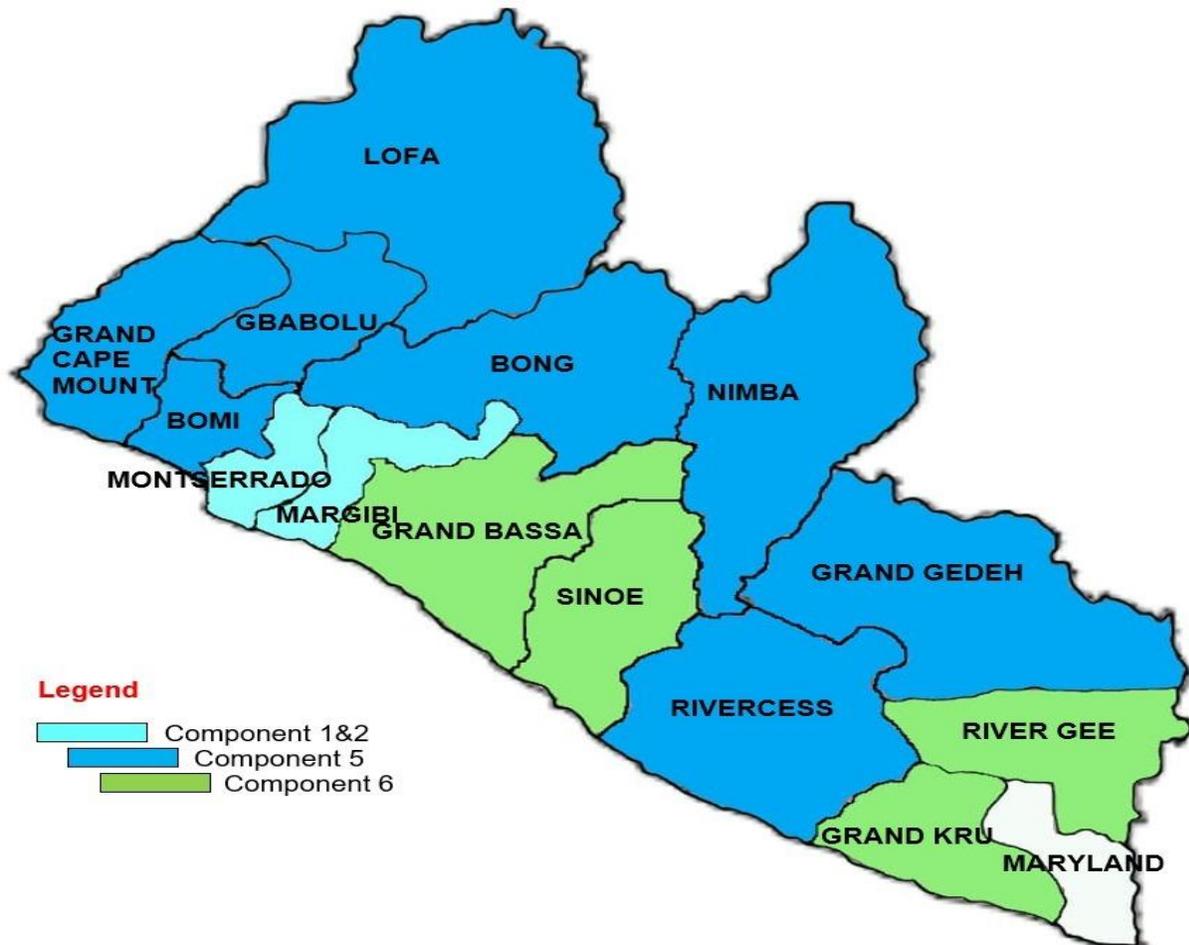
In Montserrado and Margibi, two components of the project will be implemented. Component 1 will focus on increasing access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal

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sector while Component 2 will focus on providing temporary employment opportunities through Labor-Intensive Public works (LIPW) for vulnerable workers. In rural counties, it will focus on providing immediate consumption smoothing support for vulnerable youth and other community members struggling to find gainful livelihood opportunities through CLAS. Eight counties are targeted for intervention under this component namely, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, and Sinoe. It will also support poor households to mitigate economic shocks, smooth consumption over time, and enable long-term human-capital development through SCT. The Liberia Household Social Registry (LHSR) will be strengthened for proper management of beneficiary records, ensuring that project beneficiaries are enrolled in a database (Social Registry) through which they can assess other social assistance programs which target criteria they meet. Four counties will benefit from this component including Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Rivercess and River Gee.

The project will be implemented over four years and will increase access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector, expand consumption smoothing support to poor and food insecure households, and strengthen social protection system in Liberia.

Figure 1: Map of the project area



### 2.3 Gaps observed and Lessons learned from parent project ESMF implementation

The parent project was setup to increase access to income earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector in response to the COVID-19 crisis in Liberia. The project is supporting small businesses and providing temporary employment to vulnerable workers. The ESMF of the parent project was developed to provide the necessary background for environmental and social considerations during the project implementation. Additionally, it endeavored to;

- Integrate the environmental and social concerns into the identification, design and implementation of all project interventions in order to ensure that they are environmentally sustainable and socially feasible.

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- Ensure compliance with national laws and regulations, and World Bank requirements.
  - Establish clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social planning, categorization and typology, review, approval and implementation of subprojects to be financed under the Project.
  - Specify appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline the necessary reporting procedures for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to subprojects.
  - Determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF.
  - Establish the project funding required to implement the ESMF requirements;
  - Identify practical resources for implementing the ESMF.

During the implementation of the parent project ESMF, the following gaps were identified.

- No budgetary allotment to cover the cost of waste management, which is a key activity under component 2 (Labor-intensive public works).
- The ESMF did not capture the GRM Officer as a key staff to be hired during the implementation of the parent project thereby, making it not mandatory.

There were numerous lessons learned during the implementation of the parent project ESMF. Some of the lessons learned have been captured below:

- Continuous engagements with all stakeholders to create project awareness and ownership ensured the smooth implementation of the ESMF of the parent project. The AF will build on this approach and increase stakeholder engagement to ensure a more efficient implementation of the AF ESMF.
- The establishment of GR structures within each project community provided an avenue for grievances and continuous consultation with the communities. The AF will strengthen these structures thus, making them more efficient in handling grievances at the community levels.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE & INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

#### 3.1 Legislative Framework

The 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, specifically Article 7, sets the basis for the legal and institutional framework for the protection and management of the environment in Liberia. It provides for public participation of all citizens in the protection and management of the environment and natural resources in Liberia. The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) of the Republic of Liberia was established on November 26, 2002, by an Act of the Liberia National Legislature under the Executive Branch of Government to function as an autonomous body with the principal authority for the protection and management of the environment in Liberia.

The Constitution sets the basis for the formulation of several environmental regulations, policies, and laws that are relevant to this project. The relevant regulations, policies, laws, and guidelines are discussed below.

#### **The Environmental Protection Agency Act 2002**

The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia was created by this Act. The Act was approved (enacted) in 2002 and published in 2003. Section 5 of the Act designates the EPA as the principal Liberian authority for environmental management which shall co-ordinate, monitor, supervise, and consult with relevant stakeholders on all the activities for environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. Section 6 (b) of the Act stipulates that the EPA should propose environmental policies and strategies to the Policy Council and ensure the integration of environmental concerns in the overall national planning.

#### **The Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML) of Liberia**

The EPML is the principal piece of legislation covering environmental protection and management in Liberia in parallel to the EPA Act. The Act provides the legal framework for the sustainable development, management, and protection of the environment by the EPA in partnership with relevant ministries, autonomous agencies, and organizations. It also stresses inter-sectoral coordination while allowing for sector specific statutes. The Environment Protection and Management Law (EPML, 2003b) defines the specific requirements for performing an ESIA and other measures required to protect the environment in Liberia.

Section 6 of the EPML requires an ESIA license or permit for the commencement of projects that have the potential to impact the environment. An ESIA is required for some specific types of projects as defined in Annex I of the EPML, while the need for an ESIA for other projects may be determined on a case-by-case basis after review of project brief by the EPA. The small-scale infrastructure development aspects of this project will require the subprojects to acquire

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environmental permits prior to the commencement of activities in that category. The flowchart provides the environmental screening process of the EPA.

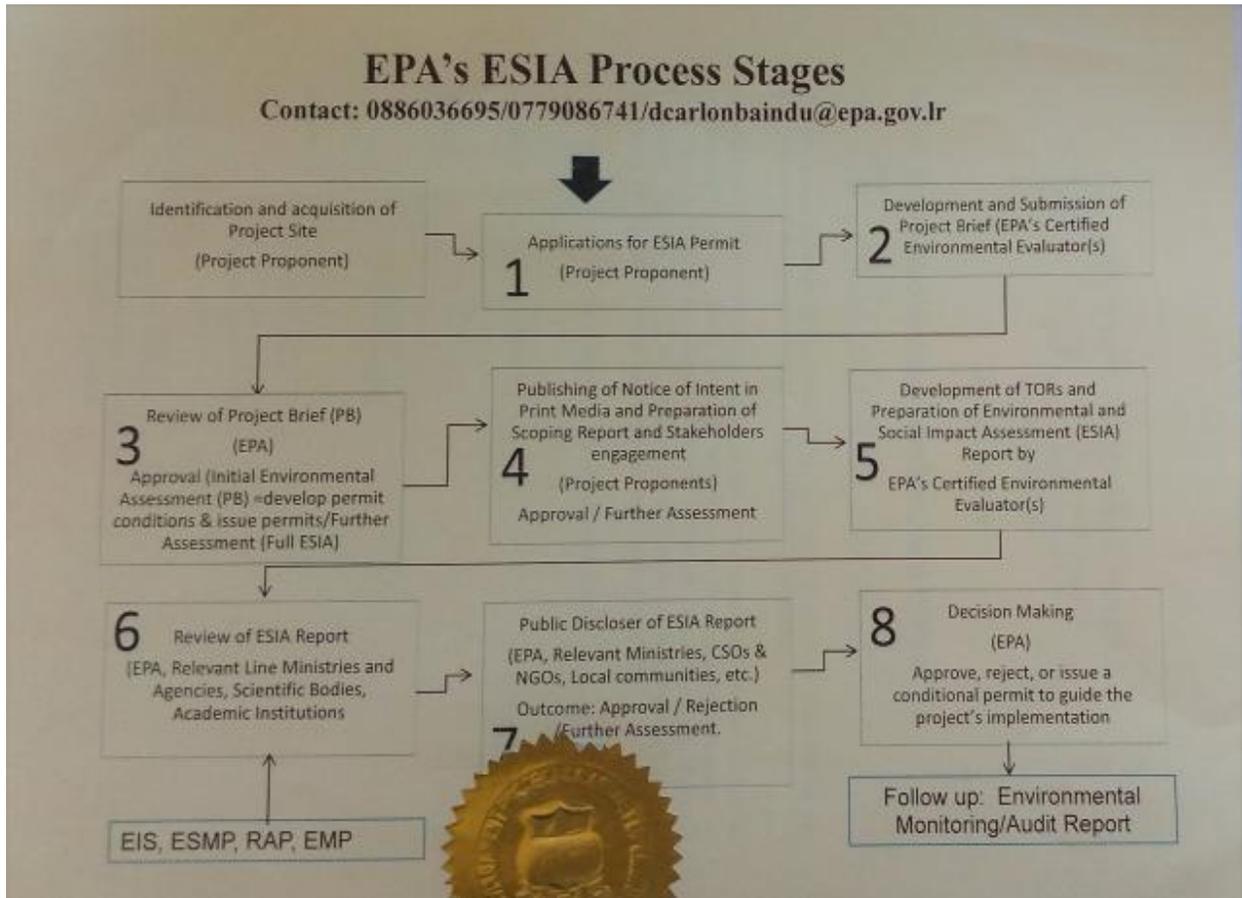
### **The ESIA Procedural Guideline of 2022**

The guidelines list the steps involved in the ESIA process as follows:

1. Applications for EIA –formal application for an environmental permit
2. Submission of Project Brief-Summary of project information, proponent, activities, location, preliminary screening of impacts, etc.
3. Screening-Preliminary evaluation of the project by the EPA to determine the need for an EIA
4. Scoping-Defines the key issues and establish the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the project
5. Assessment-Investigation of the potential environmental and social impacts of the project
6. Review-Conduct a preliminary review of the report through the ESIA unit
7. Public Hearing-Invite various stakeholders to participate in a consultation that discusses the report submitted
8. Decision-making – to approve or reject the proposal and to establish the terms and conditions for its implementation.
9. Follow up – monitoring of the project

The project was planned, designed, and will be operated based on these regulations. It shall also be maintained and guided by the same regulations and environmental monitoring will be done regularly to ensure compliance with the set environmental standards.

Figure 2: Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Liberia



Other policies and laws that are relevant to this project include the Liberia Land Rights Policy (2013), the Land Rights Act (2018), the Land Administration Policy (2015), National Environmental Policy (2003), the National Environmental and Occupational Health Policy (2010), Freedom of Information Act (2010) and the Social Protection Policy of Liberia (2013). Liberia Freedom of Information Act acknowledges that access to information is indispensable to genuine democracy and good governance and, Article 15(c) of the Constitution of Liberia provides that no limitation shall be placed on the public right to be informed about the government and its functionaries. Government of Liberia has put in place structures and processes to promote participation, consultation, and grievance redress at local levels. The Social Protection Policy on the other hand recognizes vulnerable people to include children, older people, people with disabilities and chronically ill. Liberia has also ratified international conventions related to disability, women, and children's rights.

### **3.2 Institutional Framework**

Environmental and social governance in Liberia is divided between the EPA and some other ministries and national authorities on the national level, and the Environmental and Social Committees, on the local level.

At the national level, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia is the main agency and principal authority for environmental management. In addition to the EPA, other institutions involved in environmental protection and management include the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the Liberia Land Authority (LLA). Other institutions, including the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and the Ministry of Labor (MoL) have various social protection responsibilities.

At the local level (county and district level), the EPA Act authorizes the establishment of County and District Environmental Committees and directs the National Environmental Policy Council to provide guidelines for their establishment. Each County Committee is composed of county and district officials, traditional leaders, private citizens, and two local representatives to the national legislature. The Committee is staffed by a County Environment Officer, hired by the EPA, but responsible to the County Committee.

The District Environment Committees are to be established by and report to the relevant County Environment Committee. They are charged with promoting environmental awareness and mobilizing the public to manage and monitor activities within the district to ensure that they do not have any significant impact on the environment. The District Committees are composed of district officials, mayors, chiefs, and private citizens and are staffed by a District Environment Officer hired by the EPA.

In addition to assisting the County and District Committees in the fulfillment of their responsibilities, the County and District Environment Officers are responsible for compiling reports to the EPA, promoting environmental awareness, and conducting public hearings on environmental impact assessment in the County and the District.

The EPA Act also provides for the establishment of an Environmental Court and the appointment of Environmental Inspectors to ensure the enforcement of environmental requirements and standards developed by the EPA.

### **3.3 The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework**

Since October 2018, all World Bank funded Investment Project Financing (IPF) operations are required to follow the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) consisting of ten (10) Environment and Social Standards (ESSs). These ESSs set out the environmental and social

requirements and responsibilities of the borrowers throughout the life cycle of the project, including the identification and assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the project. The borrower has the responsibility to manage the identified risks and impacts throughout the life of the project.

The Bank has undertaken an initial screening of the proposed project activities to determine the Environmental and Social Risk Classification of the project and to identify the specific ESSs that are relevant to the project. Based on the initial screening, the Environmental risk is rated as Moderate, while the social risk is rated as Substantial. The overall Environmental and Social Risk of this project is rated as Substantial. The initial screening process has also established that seven of the ten ESSs are relevant to this project. The relevant ESSs are given below:

1. Environmental and Social Standard 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts;
2. Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions;
3. Environmental and Social Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management;
4. Environmental and Social Standard 4: Community Health and Safety;
5. Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement;
6. Environmental and Social Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources;
7. Environmental and Social Standard 8: Cultural Heritage; and
8. Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.

Table 2 below provides a summary of the relevant ESSs, objectives, requirements, and relevance to the project.

Table 2: Summary of the relevant ESS’s, objectives, requirements, and relevance to the project.

World Bank ESS Policy, Standards, Directive	Objectives	Requirements	Relevance & Extent of Relevance to the sub-project/project
ESS-1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Identify, assess, evaluate, and manage environment and social risks and impacts in a manner consistent with the ESF. Adopt differentiated measures so that adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on the disadvantaged or vulnerable, and they are not disadvantaged in sharing development benefits and opportunities	The types of E&S risk and impacts that should be considered in the environmental and social assessment. The use and strengthening of the Borrower’s environmental and social framework for the assessment, development and implementation of World Bank financed projects where appropriate.	E&S risks and Impacts have been preliminarily identified based on consultations with primary stakeholders including communities and implementing agencies. Detailed IEE/ESIA and ESMP will be prepared for the subprojects, where required.
ESS-2 Labor and Working-Conditions	Promote safety and health at work. Promote fair treatment, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity of project workers. Protect project workers, with particular emphasis on vulnerable workers. Prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor. Support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in a manner consistent with national law. Provide	Requirements for the Borrower to prepare and adopt labor management procedures. Provisions on the treatment of direct, contracted, community and primary supply workers, and government civil servants. Requirements on terms and conditions of work, non-discrimination and equal opportunity and workers organizations. Provisions on child labor and forced labor. Requirements on occupational health and safety, in keeping with	The project will finance labor- intensive small-scale public works. Risks associated with the use of hand-held tools such as a shovel, machete, rake, etc. and the potential of being exposed to disease-causing agents during these activities do exist. Though this risk is low, steps need to be taken to ensure that the risk is further reduced to minimize injury and safeguard the health and safety of workers. A stand-alone OHS plan is not required. The specific steps and measures with be

World Bank ESS Policy, Standards, Directive	Objectives	Requirements	Relevance & Extent of Relevance to the sub-project/project
	project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns.	the World Bank Group's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSG).	incorporated in the project ESMP and a standalone LMP has been developed.
ESS-3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Promote the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water, and raw materials. Avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment caused by pollution from project activities. Avoid or minimize project-related emissions of short and long-lived climate pollutants. Avoid or minimize generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. Minimize and manage the risks and impacts associated with pesticide use. Requires technically and financially feasible measures to improve efficient consumption of energy, water, and raw materials, and introduces specific requirements for water efficiency where a	Requires an estimate of gross greenhouse gas emissions resulting from project (unless minor), where technically and financially feasible. Requirements on management of wastes, chemical and hazardous materials, and contains provisions to address historical pollution. ESS-3 refers to national law and Good International Industry Practice, in the first instance the World Bank Groups' EHSGs.	With respect to Resource Efficiency, the project and the ESA process will identify feasible measures for efficient (a) energy use; (b) water usage and management to minimize water usage during construction/ renovation, conservation measures to offset total construction water demand and maintain balance for demand of water resources; and (c) raw materials use by exploring use of local materials, recycled aggregates, use of innovative technology to minimize project's footprints on finite natural resources. With respect to Pollution Management, the project will update the prevention and management measures developed under the parent project to offset risks and impacts of pollution from potential Sources. As an additional measure for pollution control, an integrated pest management plan has been

World Bank ESS Policy, Standards, Directive	Objectives	Requirements	Relevance & Extent of Relevance to the sub-project/project
	project has high water demand.		developed and incorporated in this ESMF.
ESS-4 Community Health and Safety	<p>Anticipate or avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of project-affected communities during project life cycle from routine and non-routine circumstances. Promote quality, safety, and climate change considerations in infrastructure design and construction, including dams. Avoid or minimize community exposure to project-related traffic and road safety risks, diseases and hazardous materials. Have in place effective measures to address emergency events. Ensure that safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the project-affected communities.</p>	<p>Requirements on infrastructure, considering safety and climate change, and applying the concept of universal access, where technically and financially feasible. Requirements on traffic and road safety, including road safety assessments and monitoring. Addresses risks arising from impacts on provisioning and regulating ecosystem service. Measures to avoid or minimize the risk of water-related, communicable, and non-communicable diseases. Requirements to assess risks associated with security personnel, and review and report on unlawful and abusive acts to relevant authorities.</p>	<p>The project plans to reduce gender gap and provide opportunities for women for training and work in close proximity of males therefore raising concerns for GBV/SEA. These activities are likely to expose women to authorities and project's worker who have higher propensity to exploit women Furthermore, the projects activities are likely to bring people into close proximity and are likely to increase in-person interactions. Female beneficiaries may be targeted for GBV/SEA/SH by the implementing staffs and public authorities. They may be kept away from selection, their inherent disproportionate risks and impacts because of their physical vulnerability which would require differentiated mitigation measures.</p> <p>In addition, GBV/SEA/SH risks will be managed by: i) increasing awareness on SEA/SH issues, ii) requiring the signing and adhering to</p>

World Bank ESS Policy, Standards, Directive	Objectives	Requirements	Relevance & Extent of Relevance to the sub-project/project
			<p>Code of Conduct (CoC) as mandatory for implementation staffs and public authorities associated with the project, iii) regularly sensitizing, briefings/training/workshop to educate people about consequences/disciplinary action for violating the CoC and committing GBV/SEA/SH. To avoid any such happening, the MYS,LACE, and MGCSP shall develop mitigation measures/management plan and hire a Social Safeguards Officer with GBV expertise and work with specialized organizations to manage risks, i.e. GBV service providers as required and recommended. Project GRM will include specific provisions to address issues related to SEA/SH. All Project workers including beneficiaries will undergo sensitization building measures as well as training related to GBV/SEA/SH.</p> <p>The project will require training and protocol to avoid spread of COVID-19 cases. MYS shall update</p>

World Bank ESS Policy, Standards, Directive	Objectives	Requirements	Relevance & Extent of Relevance to the sub-project/project
			POM including COVID protocol. These risks will be mitigated by adhering to physical distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing practices; consistent awareness raising on COVID-19 issues, and maintenance of WHO guidelines during project preparation and implementation phases.
ESS-5 Land Acquisition Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Avoid or minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project design alternatives. Avoid forced eviction. Mitigate unavoidable adverse impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use by providing compensation at replacement cost and assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore, livelihoods and living standards to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher. Improve living	Applies to permanent or temporary physical and economic displacement resulting from different types of land acquisition and restrictions on access. Does not apply to voluntary market transactions, except where these affected third parties. Provides criteria for “voluntary” land donations, sale of community land, and parties obtaining income from illegal rentals. Prohibits forced eviction (removal against the will of affected people, without legal and other protection including all applicable procedures and principles in ESS5). Requires that acquisition of land and assets	With the introduction of the CLAS that seeks to engage beneficiaries into agricultural activities and the public works activities, it is likely to trigger land acquisition, restrictions to land use, and involuntary resettlement. Given the level of vulnerability of many rural communities, the project shall screen the related risks and impacts and develop and implement the mitigation and management plan. The current RPF should be updated to account for any cases which may arise during project implementation. The guidelines provided in the RPF associated with this ESMF will follow for each sub-project.

World Bank ESS Policy, Standards, Directive	Objectives	Requirements	Relevance & Extent of Relevance to the sub-project/project
	<p>conditions of poor or vulnerable persons who are physically displaced, through provision of adequate housing, access to services and facilities, and security of tenure. Conceive and execute resettlement activities as sustainable development programs.</p>	<p>happens only after payment of compensation and resettlement has occurred. Requires community engagement and consultation, disclosure of information and a grievance mechanism.</p>	
<p>ESS-6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</p>	<p>Protect and conserve biodiversity and habitats. Apply the mitigation hierarchy and the precautionary approach in the design and implementation of projects that could have an impact on biodiversity. To promote the sustainable management of living natural resources.</p>	<p>Requirements for projects affecting areas that are legally protected designated for protection or regionally/internationally recognized to be of high biodiversity value. Requirements on sustainable management of living natural resources, including primary production and harvesting, distinguishing between small-scale and commercial activities. Requirements relating to primary suppliers, where a project is purchasing natural resource commodities, including food, timber and fiber.</p>	<p>The project may affect biodiversity and/or living natural resources in case project funds businesses/natural resource-based enterprises that uses timber/wood-based fuel, farming etc. The ESMF has included provisions not to adversely affect biodiversity, habitats as well as promote sustainable management of living natural resources by natural resource-based enterprises. Besides, potential activities affecting biodiversity will be included in the negative list.</p>
<p>ESS-8 Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Protect cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of</p>	<p>Requires a chance finds procedure to be established. Recognition</p>	<p>ESS8 is relevant in case the project finances activities that may potentially use</p>

World Bank ESS Policy, Standards, Directive	Objectives	Requirements	Relevance & Extent of Relevance to the sub-project/project
	<p>project activities and support its preservation. Address cultural heritage as an integral aspect of sustainable development. Promote meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage. Promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage.</p>	<p>of the need to ensure peoples' continued access to culturally important sites, as well as the need for confidentiality when revealing information about cultural heritage assets that would compromise or jeopardize their safety or integrity. Requirement for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the commercial use of cultural resources. Provisions of archaeological sites and material-built heritage, natural features with cultural significance, and moveable cultural heritage.</p>	<p>tangible and non-tangible cultural heritage for commercial purposes. If a subproject intends to use cultural heritage of any project affected parties (including individuals and communities) for commercial purposes, it will inform the project affected parties of: (a) their rights under national law; (b) the scope and nature of the commercial development and the potential impacts; and (c) the potential consequences of such development and impacts. The subproject will not proceed with such commercial use unless it: (a) carries out meaningful consultation with stakeholders; (b) provides for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from commercial use of such cultural heritage, consistent with customs and traditions of the project affected parties; and (c) identifies mitigation measures according to the mitigation hierarchy. The project will be require to develop and adapt chance find</p>

World Bank ESS Policy, Standards, Directive	Objectives	Requirements	Relevance & Extent of Relevance to the sub-project/project
			procedures as and when needed.
ESS-10 Stakeholder-Engagement-and-Information-Disclosure	Establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that helps Borrowers identify stakeholders and maintain a constructive relationship with them. Assess stakeholder interest and support for the project and enable stakeholders' views to be considered in project design. Promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life cycle. Ensure that appropriate project information is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner.	Requires stakeholder engagement throughout the project life cycle, and preparation and implementation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). Requires early identification of stakeholders, both project-affected parties and other interested parties, and clarification on how effective engagement takes place. Stakeholder engagement to be conducted in a manner proportionate to the nature, scale, risks and impacts of the project, and appropriate to stakeholders' interests. Specifies what is required for information disclosure and to achieve meaningful consultation.	The SEP prepared for the parent project has been updated to include new stakeholders under the AF and outline procedures for engagement.

In addition to the relevant ESSs, the World Bank Group General Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines are also relevant to this project. The EHS Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). These General EHS Guidelines are designed to be used together with the relevant Industry Sector EHS Guidelines which provide guidance to users on EHS issues in specific industry sectors. A complete list of industry-sector guidelines can be found at [www.ifc.org/ehsguidelines](http://www.ifc.org/ehsguidelines).

In view of the relevant Environmental and Social Standards, the project is required to develop and implement several management tools in addition to this ESMF throughout the life cycle of the project. These management tools include a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), a Labor Management Procedure (LMP), a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), will be prepared for subprojects where required. A draft ESCP and SEP have been prepared and disclosed and will be updated and implemented during project implementation.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BASELINE DATA**

##### **4.1 General Project Location**

The quadrangle of Liberia is located on the western side of the African Continent and southwest corner of the West Coast of Africa. It is positioned on the Atlantic coastline of Africa, and has a surface area of 111,370 km<sup>2</sup>, and the dry land extent is 96,160 km<sup>2</sup>. It lies between the longitudes of 7°30' and 11°30' west and latitudes 4°18' and 8°30' north. It is bordered by Guinea from the north, Sierra Leone from the west and Côte d'Ivoire from the east (see

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Figure 33). Liberia has a studded coastline approximately 560 km long. It is characterized by unbroken sand strips and is dominated by lagoons and marshes. Generally, Liberia has low relief topography. However, the hinterland is made up of ill-defined and dissected plateaus and low relief mountains few rising abruptly above the surface to an elevation of 400m above sea level (asl). The highest mountain (Mount Wutivi) is located in the northeast (Yekepa) and rises to an elevation of approximately 1,380m asl.



### **4.3 Physical Environment**

#### **4.3.1 Meteorological Setting**

The climate of Liberia is determined by the equatorial position and the distribution of low and high-pressure belts along the African continent and Atlantic Ocean. A fairly warm temperature throughout the year with very high humidity is common because of the moderating influence of the ocean and the equatorial position (UNDP, 2006).

#### **4.3.2 Precipitation**

Liberia has two seasons: rainy and dry seasons. The dry season lasts from November to April and the rainy season is from May to October. Average annual rainfall along the coastal belt is over 4000 mm and declines to 1300 mm at the forest-savannah boundary in the north (Bongers et. al. 1999). The months of heavy rainfall vary from one part of the country to another, but are normally June, July, and September. The driest part of the country is along a strip of the eastward flowing Cavalla River, but even there, the land receives over 1778 mm of rain a year. Monrovia receives almost 4572 mm, about twice the estimate of rain annually. Observations concerning the diurnal distribution of rainfall prove that two-thirds of the rain along the coast, particularly in Monrovia and its environs, fall during the night between 18:00 and 07:00 hours. Most of the rest of the rain usually falls during the morning while only a minimum of rain is recorded between mid-day and early afternoon.

#### **4.3.3 Temperature and Sunshine**

The Atlantic Ocean has an additional ameliorating effect on the temperature along the coast with maximum annual and daily variations (UNDP, 2006). Generally, the temperature remains warm throughout the country and there is little change between seasons. The temperature throughout the country ranges from 27-32°C during the day and from 21-24°C at night. The average annual temperature along the coast ranges from 24°C to 30°C. In the interior, it is between 27-32 °C. The highest temperature occurs between January and March and the lowest is between August and September.

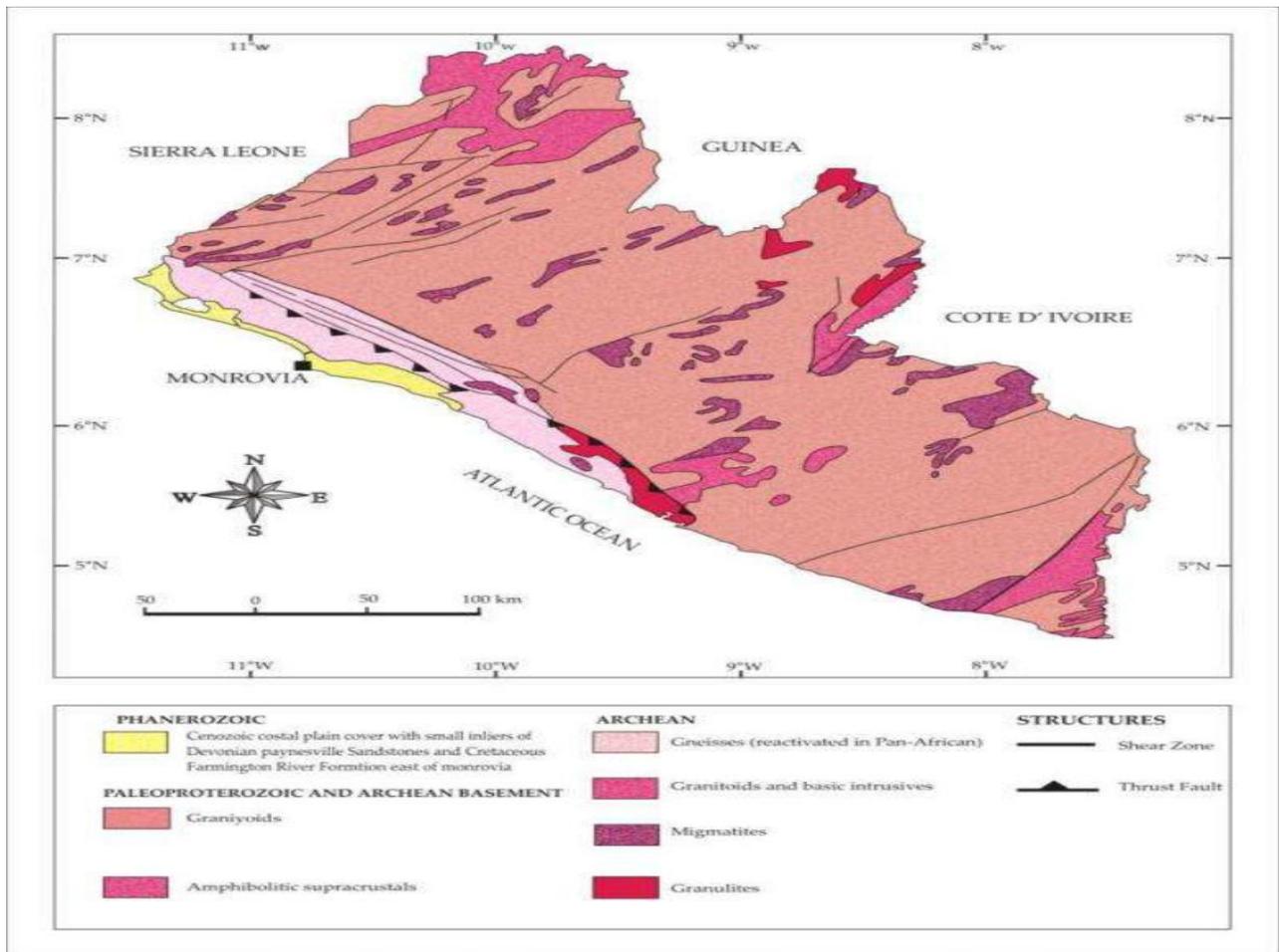
The sun is overhead at noon throughout the year, giving rise to intense insulation in all parts of the country, thus resulting in high temperatures with little monthly variations (UNDP, 2006). The temperature would have been much higher had it not been for the effect of the degree of the cloud cover, air, humidity and rainfall, which are influenced by the vegetation cover of the country. The days with the longest hours of sunshine (an average of six hours a day) fall between December and March. Daily sunshine hours are at a minimum during July, August and September.

#### **4.3.4 Geological Setting**

Liberia is underlain by the Guinea Shield of West Africa and is composed mainly of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks. Other rocks occur locally and are chiefly Paleozoic sandstone,

Jurassic diabase dikes Cretaceous sandstones and Quaternary unconsolidated deposits. Rock outcrops are sparse in Liberia owing to tropical weathering that has produced a thick laterite and saprolite cover, which supports a dense rainforest. The rocks forming this crystalline shield consist of an older series of granulitic and migmatitic gneisses and amphibolites with subordinate granitoids. Remnants of slightly younger supercrustal rocks or sedimentary and volcanic origin are aligned predominantly in a SW-NE direction. Phanerozoic sediments are only exposed along a narrow coastal strip.

Figure 4: Geological overview of Liberia



Source: EarthTime Inc.

#### 4.3.5 Soil Type

The climate tends to become the dominant soil-forming factor in Liberia, reinforced by the associated effects of the abundant and dense vegetation. The warm and humid climate conditions cause intensive mechanical and chemical weathering of the parent rock and leaching of the soil profile. As a result, Liberian soils share many important features, even though some

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minor variations reflect the more local influence of relief and geology. The bedrocks from which the rocks have formed are mainly of crystalline, igneous, and metamorphic origin, consisting of granites, gneisses, gneissic sandstone and schists and shales. The three major groups of soil in Liberia can be identified: latosols, lithosols and regosols.

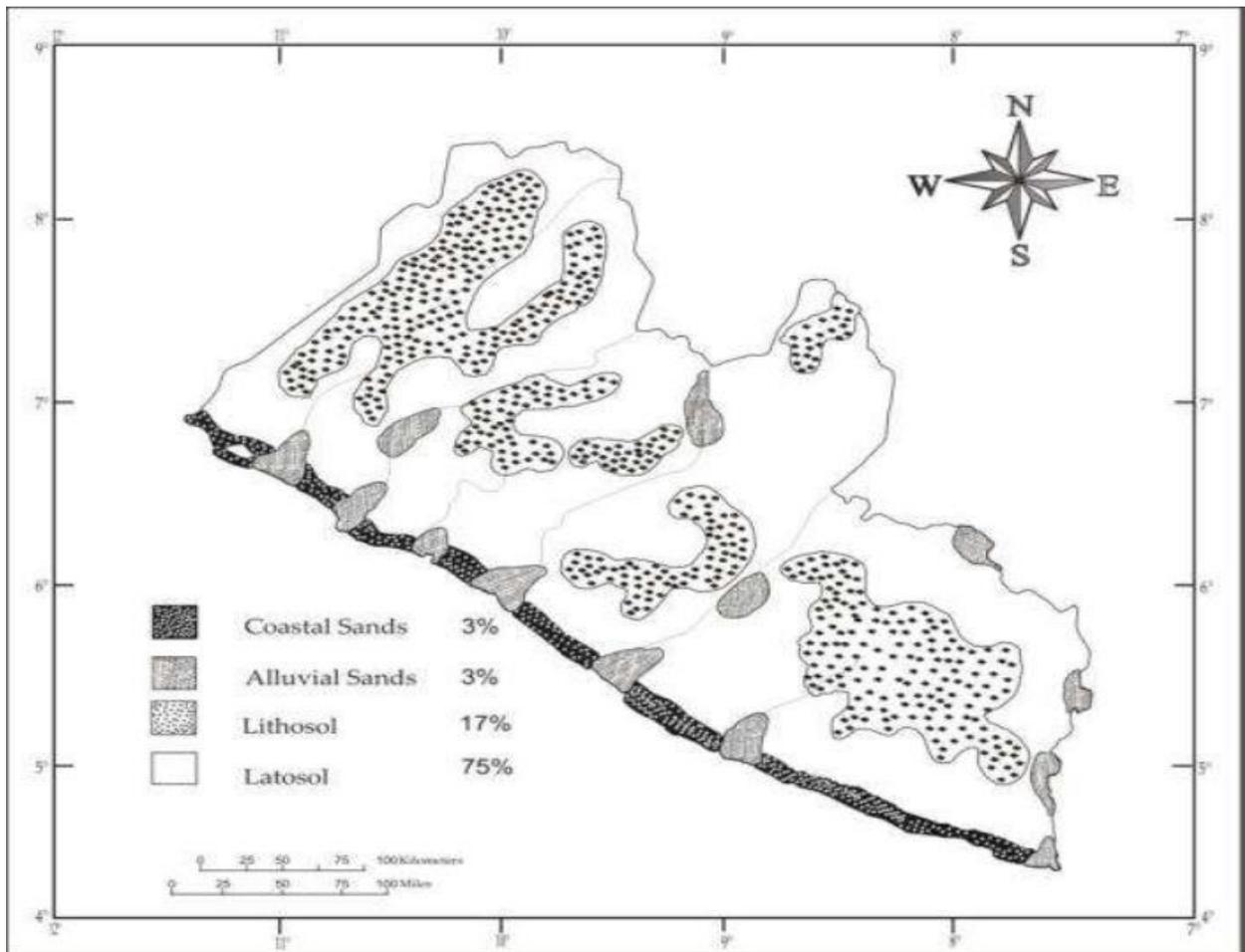
The latosols are lateritic soils occupying about 75% of the total area and occurring on undulating and rolling land. They are heavily leached, and silica, nutrients and humus are mostly washed out. Iron and aluminum minerals have accumulated as permanent residual materials, forming hardpans and cemented layers within the subsoil, while on the surface hard and rounded iron oxides can be observed. This process, which is called laterization has a pronounced binding effect, making the soils impermeable and increasing the hazards of run-off and erosion. The prevalence of iron oxides gives the laterites the characteristic brown and red color.

In sharp contrast to the latosols are azonal soils, classified as lithosol. The striking characteristic of these soils is that profile development is very slow and often subject to erosion. The lithosol represents about 17% of the total area on mostly hilly and rugged land. They are mostly very shallow and frequently show outcrops of decomposing rocks because of their elevated position. The percentage of the gravel is also very high and therefore nutrient and moisture storage capacity of the soil is greatly reduced.

Regosols are sandy soils which occur within the narrow coastal belt and in small patches farther inland. Along the coast, they are mainly marine sediments consisting of more than 70% fine to coarse sand and silt. These sands are heavily leached and bleached to an almost white color, and the percentage of clay and organic matter is very small. Where the drainage is poor, swamps develop.

Alongside the streams and riverbeds, rich alluvial soils are encountered. They contain a high amount of the necessary plant nutrients and are best for agricultural production. However, they represent only between 2 to 3% of the total area.

Figure 5: Soil Type Distribution in Liberia



Source: EarthTime Inc.

#### 4.5 Biological Environment

Liberia is among the nine different West African Countries straddled in the Upper Guinean Forest belt that stretches from western Togo to eastern Sierra Leone. This forest belt is considered as one of the highest global conservation priorities due to its high levels of endemism, species rarity and the extreme and immediate threat facing its survival.

##### 4.5.1 Fauna and Flora

Liberia is home to approximately 150 mammal species, 590 bird species, 15 reptiles and amphibian species and over 1,000 insect species. Forest areas in Liberia were once known to host a wide range of animals including elephant, pygmy hippopotamus, buffalo, large primates and large hornbills; these species have largely disappeared due to hunting, farming and logging activities.

Several antelope species that prefer patchy forest and regenerating forest/bush fallow areas are commonly reported in abundance in the interior. These include rare species such as Zebra and Jentik's duiker. Primates such as chimpanzees, three species of colobus monkeys, Diana monkey, various guenons and manabies are reported to be abundant in the mature secondary and primary forest. Wild pigs and porcupines exist in sparsely settled areas, and several members of the leopard group are also found.

The Leatherback turtles (*Demochely Coriacoa*) are critically endangered and along with the olive ridley (*Lepitochely olivacea*), Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta Caretta*) and Hawksbull turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) are found on Liberia's beaches. The sea turtles are widely hunted while nesting and are occasionally caught in artisanal fishermen's net.

There are over 2000 flowering plant species, with 59 of them endemic to the country and one endemic genus. Among the plant species, 240 timber species are known to inhabit Liberia's forest.

#### **4.6 Socio-economic Environment**

Poverty remains widespread in Liberia and is on the rise. With a gross national income per capita of just US\$600 in 2018, Liberia is among the ten poorest countries in the world. According to the 2016 Household Income and Expenditure (HIES) survey data, more than half of the population (50.9 percent) was living in poverty. Poverty was more than twice as high in rural areas (71.6 percent) as in urban areas (31.5 percent). The national headcount poverty rate increased to an estimated 55.5 percent in 2019, reflecting negative per capita GDP growth rates and rising inflation.<sup>1</sup> Nonmonetary poverty indicators, including access to healthcare, education, and basic utilities, are also low by regional and international standards, with especially acute rural/urban and gender disparities.

Employment in Liberia is largely informal, most of it in the form of self-employment in agriculture or unregistered non-farm enterprises. Youth and women are more likely to be in the informal sector compared to non-youth and men. The 2016 household survey data puts the percent of female workers and youth workers in the informal sector at 95 percent and 97 percent, respectively.

Most of the working age population in Liberia is in the labor force and employed, but most workers depend on precarious low earning jobs in the informal sector. Generally, women are less likely to work than men and are also most likely to be in vulnerable forms of employment and low-productivity activities. Job opportunities are scarce in Liberia. Most Liberians, including the vulnerable population, lack access to good job opportunities that offer good and sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank. 2020. The COVID-19 Crisis in Liberia: Projected Impact and Policy Options for a Robust Recovery. World Bank, Monrovia.

earnings. It is estimated that three out of every four Liberians are self-employed in agriculture, constituting about 36 percent of all employment, while non-agriculture activities account for about 40 percent of all employment. Only 20 percent of workers have access to wage employment, which tends to provide higher and more stable earnings. The vulnerable households on the other hand depend largely on non-farm enterprises. It is estimated that about two thirds of all vulnerable households own non-farm enterprises, and these enterprises in general tend to have low revenues and profits.

Rural communities are characterized by poor economic activities where the lack of opportunity is forcing many young rural dwellers to leave their homes in search of work in overcrowded cities or abroad. The economy of the rural areas focuses on the optimal harnessing of rural resources for the enhancement of their living conditions, and it arguably sustains both the urban and national economy. The major economic products (iron ore, diamond, gold, and agricultural products) come from the rural areas of Liberia. Generally, Liberia's economy is agrarian in nature and for many decades, her economy revolved on agriculture. In 2000, agriculture contributed 76.1% to the GDP but declined to 65.2% in 2008 and 34.2% both in 2016 and 2017<sup>2</sup>. Indeed, over 43% of the total labor force is engaged in agriculture. However, smallholder farmers constitute most of the farming population and these have not effectively and efficiently tapped the numerous abundant rural resources. Interventions under the additional financing (AF) will target rural counties including Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Sinoe, River Gee, Grand Kru, River Cess, and Grand Bassa Counties.

The AF seeks to strengthen support to refugees and their host communities and support former refugees who have recently lost their refugee status owing to invocation of the cessation clause by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Considering the challenge confronting refugees of restriction to camps, either directly or indirectly, and often with unsustainable means of livelihoods, refugees risk falling deeper into poverty. Coupled with this, is the issue relating to the location of camps, which are mostly situated at poor border zones and isolated from cities and economic hubs of host countries. Refugees in such circumstances may also lack access to rights, education, and health. This deprives them of achieving their human potential. Furthermore, they are left with few means to support themselves, which renders their survival overly dependent on humanitarian aid with no means of self-sufficiency.

The project aims to address these challenges by engaging in social cash transfer (SCT). The Ministry of Gender which is being added as an implementing entity has a history in SCT. The Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (LSSNP) implemented by the ministry of gender, children, and social protection (MGCSP) launched the government's first-ever urban cash transfer program. It provided emergency cash transfers for close to 15,000 households living in vulnerable communities in the Greater Monrovia area. The SCT program under the LSSNP predominantly

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<sup>2</sup> World Bank, 2018.

benefited poor households in rural areas. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Liberia extended the coverage of the SCT program to include urban households in Greater Monrovia, calling this scaled-up program the SCT-COVID. The SCT-COVID deployed the use of technology via mobile money to provide much-needed income support to vulnerable households. Indeed, it helped to prevent many families from having to resort to negative survival strategies (for example, switching to lower quality food, selling assets, taking children out of school, and high interest borrowing). Experience from the LSSNP as well as lessons learnt will be brought to REALISE-AF for smooth implementation.

Additionally, the AF will provide income earning opportunities to rural community dwellers who are struggling to find gainful livelihood opportunities following the COVID-19 crisis through community level interventions. A community-driven development approach will be adopted to engage beneficiaries in gainful agricultural activities with an emphasis on community-level farm production and management of local/community resources. This approach is similar to the youth opportunities project (YOP) that provided support to vulnerable youths through community livelihood and agriculture support. The YOP was funded by a US\$10M IDA credit that benefited around 15,000 youth nationwide through four components; namely Pre-employment Social Support and Household Enterprises for urban youth; Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support and Life Skills Support for Rural Youth; Capacity and Systems Building for Cash Transfers; and Project Implementation and Coordination. Like the REALISE-AF, the YOP was implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) and the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE).

Urban areas in Liberia including Monrovia are faced with infrastructure challenges, and vulnerable households tend to be hit the hardest. Poor or non-existent enforcement of building and planning codes has resulted in haphazard development and environmental degradation, with attendant consequences on human health and safety. Congestion and uncontrolled development have also led to the lack of basic urban services for more than half of urban residents. Because of their low-income situations, vulnerable households tend to live in exposed areas with worse infrastructures. The project will address some of these challenges by focusing on community development activities that help create shaded areas, strengthen infrastructure to protect living areas and water supply from climate induced disasters, while providing employment opportunities for unemployed youth in Montserrado and Margibi.

#### **4.6.1 Demography of the Project Counties**

Liberia is divided into fifteen counties. Each is administered by a superintendent appointed by the President. Montserrado County is one of 15 counties that comprise the first-level of administrative division in the nation, it has 17 sub political districts and contains the national capital, Monrovia. As of the 2008 Census, it had a population of 1,118,241, making it the most populous county in Liberia.

Nimba County is the largest of Liberia's 15 counties. The county has six statutory districts. As of the 2008 Census, it had a population of 462,026, making it the second most-populous county in Liberia. It shares borders with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in the East and the Republic of Guinea in the Northwest. Bong County on the other hand is the third most populous county in Liberia with population at 328,919 as of 2008. Lofa County measures 9,982 square kilometers and had a population of 276,863 as of 2008, making it the fourth populous county in Liberia<sup>3</sup>. The rest of the project counties are presented below:

Table 3: Project counties' demographic information

Project County	Male	Female	Total
Gbarpolu	43,906	39,482	83,388
Grand Bassa	110,913	110,780	221,693
Grand Cape Mount	65,679	61,397	127,076
Grand Gedeh	64,994	60,264	125,258
Grand Kru	29,648	28,265	57,913
Margibi	105,840	104,083	209,923
Montserrado	585,833	558,973	1,144,806
Nimba	232,700	235,388	468,088
River Cess	37,224	34,285	71,509
River Gee	34,863	31,926	66,789
Sinoe	54,767	47,624	102,391

#### 4.6.2 COVID-19 Pandemic and the Economy

The negative impacts of COVID-19 on economic activities and especially the informal sector threaten the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable households in Liberia. Vulnerable households are defined here as those whose consumption levels fall in the three bottom quintiles of the population.<sup>4</sup> In urban areas, vulnerable households depend significantly on non-farm enterprises (NFE) for livelihoods. Some 26 percent of urban households in the poorest quintile depend exclusively on non-farm enterprise income, with another 8 percent depending on farming and NFE income. For households in the second and third quintile, these numbers reach 33 and 4, and 38 and 3 percent respectively. Between 13 and 23 percent of urban households combine wage and non-farm enterprise work. In rural areas, vulnerable households depend largely on farming, but about twenty percent rely on a combination of farming and non-farm enterprise income.

<sup>3</sup> LISGIS Census report 2008

<sup>4</sup> Given that national poverty rates reached 55 percent in 2019 and may well have increased since, it is reasonable to count the bottom 60 percent of the population as poor and vulnerable. Since poverty is higher in rural than in urban areas, higher share of rural households will be below the national 60 percent cut-off than in urban areas.

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Rising COVID-19 cases in major crop producing areas are hindering farming activities, limiting food market activities, and disrupting transport systems, and are raising food insecurity in Liberia. Although urban areas, by virtue of population density, have seen more infections, rural areas are not insulated from the impact of COVID19. Disruptions to the production of rice – Liberia’s main staple food – as well as cassava production is contributing to food shortages and subsequent increases in the prices of staples consumed by the poor and vulnerable. Liberia is also highly dependent on imported food products. Increases in food prices – the major expense for poor and vulnerable households – underpin the expected increase in poverty rates.

## 5. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

Under Component 1, the project will support business maintenance and recovery/development with grants and training to existing vulnerable informal small businesses. It will also provide technical support and grants to new small businesses in the informal sector in urban areas (in the second phase of the project). The component will also finance a range of support services, including business skills and development training, and mentoring and will actively promote engagement of women in higher productivity (sometimes referred to as 'male-dominated') sectors to promote higher earnings among women. Under Component 2, the project will provide temporary employment for vulnerable workers struggling to find gainful employment and opportunities during and after the COVID-19 crisis through community-based public works activities.

These activities are less likely to generate any significant negative environmental and social risks and impacts. However, the risk of vulnerable groups or individuals being excluded from benefiting from the project, GBV issues, and inadequate stakeholder consultations are among the potential risks. The public works component has the potential to generate occupational and community health and safety issues, and health risk associated with COVID-19. Under Component 5, the project will provide vulnerable youth in rural areas with immediate consumption smoothing through Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support (CLAS). Activities to be carried out under this component are improbable to cause substantial negative environmental and social risk and impact. Nevertheless, the risk to soil, surface water and air pollution, deforestation and/or encroachment on protected areas while promoting agricultural activities, involuntary resettlement and restriction on land use are among the potential risks. Additionally, occupational and community health and safety issues, and health risk associated with COVID-19 are likely to occur.

Component 6 will provide income support to extremely poor and food insecure households through regular cash transfers and support refugees and former refugees who have recently lost their refugee status owing to invocation of the cessation clause by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Activities under this are less likely to generate any significant negative environmental and social risk and impact. However, the risk of vulnerable groups or individuals being excluded from benefiting from cash transfers does exist. GBV issues, and inadequate stakeholder consultations are among the potential risks.

### 5.1 Potential Environmental Impacts

Overall, the AF is expected to have beneficial environmental impacts because the emphasis on supporting types of activities will be not on just minimizing negative environmental impacts but also promoting enterprises that will have positive impacts. The beneficial impacts will include,

- Cleaner air and improved aesthetics in the beneficiary cities

- Improved hygiene condition
- Flood reduction and better quality of the environment as a result of improved waste management
- Decline in the prevalence of diseases whose transmission is linked to poor sanitation
- Decrease in deforestation by financing small farmers and requiring them to use the same land for agricultural activities for no less than 3 years consecutively
- Increased access to income earning opportunities in the rural areas and improved food security etc.

In view of these beneficial environmental impacts, activities to be implemented under components 1, 2, & 5 are likely to generate negative environmental impacts including,

- Improper Management of solid, liquid, and hazardous wastes and hazardous materials (resulting in soil and surface water contamination)
- Soil/groundwater/surface water contamination due to the transportation, storage, application, and disposal of agro-chemicals
- Pollution due to the burning of grass generated from farm clearing
- Soil erosion and nutrient loss due to land surface exposure to wind and run-off
- Groundwater/surface water pollution because of the application of agro-chemicals
- Uncontrolled application of agrochemicals is likely to result in soils / land degradation, air pollution and water bodies, Harmful effects on human/animals

## **5.2 Potential Social Risks and Impacts**

Generally, the AF is expected to achieve beneficial social impacts including,

- Income generation through the creation of entrepreneurship for disadvantaged rural inhabitants in lagging areas of Liberia.
- Increased income through the procurement of local tools and materials sold on the domestic market.
- Improvement in the livelihood of the local population and strengthened entrepreneurial capacity.
- Sustainable poverty reduction and local economic and social development, etc.

Amid these beneficial social impacts, interventions under the AF are likely to generate negative social impacts as well. The main target of these interventions is the vulnerable people in the informal sector, including women and unemployed youth. Because of the characteristics of the project beneficiaries, especially women, they are likely to be exposed to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEA/H) by project implementation staff during recruitment and project implementation, as well as by authorities during official business transactions. There is also the risk of,

- Low participation of women, girls and the most vulnerable-disabled and elderly due to the family responsibilities such as taking care of siblings and handling household tasks.
- possibilities of the project tumbling to “elite capture” in which resources will be directed to benefit few individuals.
- Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement
- Destruction to cultural resources
- Labor, working conditions, and community health and safety,
- Emergence of social conflict resulting from favoritism and lack of transparency.
- Dissatisfaction among residents who were not selected to benefit from the project
- Exposure to contracting communicable diseases in general and COVID-19 in particular, if protocols are not properly observed etc.

### 5.3 Mitigation Measures

During project implementation, several measures will be instituted to ensure that the project potential risks and impacts are mitigated. The measures will include but not limited to the following:

1. During implementation, ensure that subproject activities are screened, and appropriate site-specific actions plans are developed to address issues related to OHS and community health and safety, pollution, waste management, etc.
2. Ensure the participation of the vulnerable, disadvantaged and women groups in project planning, decision making as well as access to project opportunities, and that selection of these disadvantaged people get prioritized over others through a differentiated approach so that the terms and conditions of selection are cognizant to their social standing and vulnerable background.
3. The PMT has developed a “negative list” (Annex 4) to exclude highly polluting or environmentally detrimental activities from being financed under the project.
4. Ensure that contractor staff and project beneficiaries participating in or involved with the public activities have appropriate PPEs and training and should be required to follow COVID-19 related social distancing measures and protocols. Provision of symptom reporting, and medical evacuation also must be in place in case symptoms are seen in any worker.
5. Design measures will be taken to account for universal access philosophy, including access to information, process to raise grievance and other issues.

6. SEA/H action plan to be developed and implemented throughout the lifecycle of the project.
7. Code of Conduct for project workers to be developed and widely disseminated to project staff and staff of contractors.
8. Develop a site-specific resettlement action plan (RAP) to address the risk of involuntary resettlement and restriction on land use.
9. The PMT has developed and incorporated procedures for chance finds.
10. The labor management procedure of the parent project has been updated to mitigate the risks of labor and working conditions.

**5.4 Proposed subproject activities and associated E&S Impacts/Risks**

This section presents the proposed AF activities and potential negative environmental and social impacts/risks that are associated with the implementation of these activities. During implementation, these will be evaluated against site- specific conditions using information gathered from the subproject screening. The proposed project activities, associated E&S impacts/risks, and the required instruments are summarized in table 4.

Table 4: Proposed subproject activities and associated E&S Impacts/Risks

Type of subproject per component	Environmental and Social Impacts/Risks	Required Instrument
<p><b>Component 1: Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses</b></p> <p>Trades and Retail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing</li> <li>• Hair and skin product sale</li> <li>• Fruit and vegetables</li> <li>• Food supplies</li> </ul> <p>Production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soap making</li> <li>• Baking</li> <li>• Block making</li> </ul> <p>Fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish preservation and packaging</li> </ul> <p>Technical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and sexual harassment (SH)</li> <li>• Exclusion of women, girls and the most vulnerable-disabled and elderlies</li> <li>• Elite Capture</li> <li>• emergence of social conflict resulting from favoritism and lack of transparency during beneficiary enrollment</li> <li>• Increased risk of spread of communicable diseases in general and in specific COVID-19</li> </ul>	SEA/SH Action Plan

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cellphone repair</li><li>• Auto and motorbike mechanics and services</li><li>• Metal fabrication</li><li>• Construction</li><li>• Painting</li><li>• Carpentry and joinery</li><li>• Plumbing</li><li>• Electrical</li></ul> <p>Waste and Sanitor Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recycling</li><li>• Garbage collection</li></ul>		
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<p><b>Component 2: Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers</b></p> <p>Waste and Sanitation Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving debris or waste that threaten public health and wellbeing to approved waste stations within the community</li> <li>• Cleaning of beaches and waterways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improper Management of solid, liquid, and hazardous wastes and hazardous materials (resulting in soil and surface water contamination)</li> <li>• Unallowable noise emissions</li> <li>• Unallowable air and dust emissions</li> <li>• Occupational health &amp; safety in relation to, but not limited to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical hazards from cleanup exercises and waste collection</li> <li>- Physical hazards from equipment and vehicles involved in waste transportation and disposal</li> <li>- Slippage and Falling</li> <li>- Manual handling and lifting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increased risk of spread of communicable diseases in general and in specific COVID-19</li> <li>• Community health &amp; safety in terms of car accidents or work-related incidents</li> <li>• Traffic congestion and blockage of access</li> <li>• Poor Labor and working conditions</li> <li>• Risk of child and forced labor</li> <li>• Gender-based violence (sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and sexual harassment (SH))</li> </ul> <p>Exclusion of the vulnerable/disadvantaged groups and/or by unconscious discrimination</p>	<p>Waste Management Plan</p>
<p>Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Community Access Roads/Streets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improper Management of solid, liquid, and hazardous wastes and hazardous materials (resulting in soil and surface water contamination)</li> </ul>	<p>Waste Management Plan</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street sweeping and cleaning</li> <li>• De-shading and brushing of overgrown vegetation</li> <li>• Cleaning/de-silting culverts and their inlets and outlets to include mitre drains</li> <li>• Repairing damaged structures (community access bridges, culverts, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unallowable noise emissions</li> <li>• Unallowable air and dust emissions</li> <li>• Occupational health &amp; safety in relation to, but not limited to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical hazards from cleanup exercises and waste collection</li> <li>- Physical hazards from equipment and vehicles involved in waste transportation and disposal</li> <li>- Slippage and Falling</li> <li>- Manual handling and lifting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increased risk of spread of communicable diseases in general and in specific COVID-19</li> <li>• Community health &amp; safety in terms of car accidents or work-related incidents</li> <li>• Traffic congestion and blockage of access</li> <li>• Poor Labor and working conditions</li> <li>• Risk of child and forced labor</li> <li>• Gender-based violence (sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and sexual harassment (SH))</li> <li>• Exclusion of the vulnerable/disadvantaged groups and/or by unconscious discrimination</li> </ul>	
<p>Supplementary Healthcare and other public information activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to community health awareness campaigns</li> <li>• Support to ongoing public information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and sexual harassment (SH)</li> <li>• Exclusion of the vulnerable/disadvantaged groups and/or by unconscious discrimination</li> </ul>	<p>SEA/SH Action Plan</p>

<p>dissemination campaigns targeting community members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased risk of spread of communicable diseases in general and in specific COVID-19</li> </ul>	
<p>Teaching/Community Education support activities for school going children, and elderly, among others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for tutorial sessions for school going children and youth</li> <li>• Support for adult literacy activities</li> <li>• Provision of childcare/elderly care (under supervision of trained specialists)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and sexual harassment (SH)</li> <li>• Exclusion of the vulnerable/disadvantaged groups and/or by unconscious discrimination</li> <li>• Increased risk of spread of communicable diseases in general and in specific COVID-19</li> </ul>	<p>SEA/SH Action Plan</p>
<p>Community Beautification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration of community parks and public spaces</li> <li>• Painting of public buildings and street walls to include markings or crosswalks</li> <li>• Planting of trees or establishment of wood lots on public land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazardous air pollutants and odors</li> <li>• Toxic waste due to improper unused paint disposal</li> <li>• Pollution of surface water due to spillage</li> <li>• Increased risk of spread of communicable diseases in general and in specific COVID-19</li> </ul>	<p>ESMP</p>
<p><b>Component 5: Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support</b>                  Crop production, including lowland rice, roots, and tubers (yams, cassava, potatoes, eddoes); vegetables (tomatoes, onions, okra, cabbages, bitter ball); legumes (peanuts); pulses (beans, peas); and fruits (pineapples)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burning of grass during farm clearing can lead to environmental pollution, soil erosion, and destruction of soil organisms</li> <li>• Destroy vegetation flora &amp; fauna and expose land surface to wind &amp; run-off</li> <li>• Water pollution can occur from spraying pesticide</li> <li>• Destruction of soil micro-organisms and induce soil erosion &amp; nutrients</li> <li>• Losses due to pest and disease infestation</li> </ul>	<p>Integrated Pest Management Plan</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil and land degradation</li> <li>• Groundwater pollution because of the application of agro-chemicals</li> <li>• Occupational health and safety issues</li> <li>• Use of chemicals to induce ripening of crops can have harmful effects on human health</li> <li>• Destruction of flora and fauna habitat</li> </ul>	
<p>Plantain, banana production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burning of grass during farm clearing can lead to environmental pollution, soil erosion, and destruction of soil organisms</li> <li>• Destroy vegetation flora &amp; fauna and expose land surface to wind &amp; run-off</li> <li>• Water pollution can occur from spraying pesticide</li> <li>• Destruction of soil micro-organisms and induce soil erosion &amp; nutrients</li> <li>• Losses due to pest and disease infestation</li> <li>• Soil and land degradation</li> <li>• Groundwater pollution because of the application of agro-chemicals</li> <li>• Occupational health and safety issues</li> <li>• Use of chemicals to induce ripening of crops can have harmful effects on human health</li> </ul> <p>Destruction of flora and fauna habitat</p>	<p>Integrated Pest Management Plan</p>
<p>Value chain addition: Processing the produce (e.g., processing fruits into fruit juice or dried fruits)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodegradable waste which if not well managed will turn to be a health risks to the community</li> <li>• Occupational health &amp; safety in relation to, but not limited to:</li> <li>• Physical hazards from machine repair work</li> <li>• Fire Hazard</li> </ul>	<p>ESMP</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slippage and Falling</li> <li>• Manual handling and lifting</li> <li>• Heat exhaustion</li> <li>• Soil /groundwater/surface-water contamination from accidental fuel/engine oil spill</li> <li>• Increased risk of spread of communicable diseases in general and in specific COVID-19</li> </ul>	
<p>Animal husbandry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pungent scent can be generated from poorly managed animal waste</li> <li>• Solid waste generation from poultry droppings</li> <li>• Occupational health and safety</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Emissions of air pollutants</li> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Soil pollution if waste is not well managed</li> <li>• Sick poultry animals carrying zoonotic diseases can have impact on human health</li> <li>• Poor management of waste can result in infestation of the area by rodents and insects</li> </ul>	<p>ESMP</p>
<p><b>Component 6: Social Cash Transfer and Strengthening of the National Social Protection System</b> Unconditional cash transfer to vulnerable households</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and sexual harassment (SH)</li> <li>• Exclusion of women, girls and the most vulnerable-disabled and elderlies</li> <li>• Elite Capture</li> <li>• emergence of social conflict resulting from favoritism and lack of transparency during beneficiary enrollment</li> <li>• Increased risk of spread of communicable diseases in general and in specific COVID-19</li> </ul>	<p>SEA/SH Action Plan</p>

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

These steps are discussed in detail in the subsections below.

### 6.1 Step 1: Environmental Screening

A screening of each proposed intervention or subproject should be undertaken. The PMT with assistance from the EPA will:

1. Ensure compliance with the national EIA screening process with both the EPA and World Bank safeguards processes.
2. Determine and formally agree with the EPA on the level of assessment required (e.g. Project Brief or ESMP, full scale ESIA will be required).
- 3.

To facilitate this process, the PMT will develop a standard screening checklist (Annex 1) form that incorporates:

1. The Liberian national EIA Screening Form;
2. Criteria that reflect the WB, including whether the site and proposed intervention present risks to natural habitats, water quality and water resource availability and use, natural hazards, cultural property, involuntary resettlement, and pesticide use;
3. Process for checking whether the mitigation measures identified through the REALISE ESMF process apply; and
4. Identification of stakeholders, including groups that may be affected by the project (to be appended to the checklist).

Information to complete the checklist may require field visits and key informant interviews. Following the screening, the PMT through its Environmental Safeguard Officer and Social Safeguard Officer who are to have oversight on the project operations, will prepare and submit a Notice of Intent and Project Brief consistent with requirement set out in the EPML to the EPA. In certain instances, and subject to EPA confirmation, completion of an EPA screening form may replace the Project Brief. If so, the screening form must be prepared by an EPA registered evaluator. Annex 1 provides a proposed template of the screening form.

### 6.2 Step 2: Environmental and Social Assessment Studies

The EPA reviews the Project Brief and decides on the level of ESIA that is required). In some cases, this may be different than what is required by the Bank. For example, the Bank has already rated this project as Substantial. Therefore, the project will be required to prepare and implement an ESMP during project implementation. However, the EPA may not require any further study after

review of the Project Brief and could issue an Environmental Permit based on the Project Brief. In this case, the project will still be required to prepare an ESMP and subproject ESMP that satisfies the World Bank's requirements. In all cases, the project is required to apply the more stringent of the two ESIA standards.

**Step 2A:** As per the processes outlined above, the PMT Safeguard Officers will prepare the ToRs for the ESIA or any level of required Environmental Assessment study/deliverables (Annex 5) that may be required (e.g., preparation of a RAP, etc.). Recruitment or engagement of such service providers should follow EPA procedures for selecting consultants for Environmental Assessments and the selected consultant must be a registered environmental evaluator. The ToRs should include issues identified in the screening exercise including any requirement specified by the EPA as a result for that process.

The development of comprehensive ToRs is a key step in safeguard process, which will define the tasks required to undertake the ESIA and define the scope of outputs required. The ESMP should comply with requirements specified in ESS1 and identify:

1. Potential E&S impacts related to siting, construction, and operation of the intervention.
2. Mitigation and monitoring measures to address potential impacts.
3. Responsibilities for monitoring ESMP requirements.
4. Training and capacity-building requirements for project officers and communities.
5. Estimated budget for mitigation monitoring and training; and
6. Measures to ingrate the ESMP into the intervention's overall planning design budget and implementation.

The PMT will submit copies of the ESIA document as appropriate to the EPA.

### **6.3 Step 3: Approval**

In compliance with WB guidelines and Liberian EIA requirements, the applicable documents (ESIA, ESMP, and/or RAP) must be made available for public review before the commencement of implementing project activities and must be at places accessible to local people (e.g., at county/district offices, EPA offices) and in a form, manner, and language that can be easily understood. The World Bank reviews and provides clearance to ESIA documents before it is forwarded to the EPA for approval. After approval, the EPA issues Environmental Permits for implementation of the approved instruments. Permits are issued for a period of 12 months and need to be renewed as required. It is important to note that the ESMF does not require EPA review or approval.

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**6.4 Step 4: Management Plans (ESMP, WMP, SEA/SH Action Plan, and IPMP)**

After the approval of the ESIA, all subprojects will be implemented following the guidelines developed in the MPs. The subprojects will consider the environmental and social risks identified in the MPs and make provision for the implementation of the mitigation measures established therein.

All monitoring indicator developed in the MPs will be closely followed to ensure the effectiveness of the subproject implementation in line with the bank's ESS and the environmental laws of Liberia. The indicators to be monitored will include aspects of,

- Occupational health and safety
- Community health and safety
- Pollution prevention and management
- Waste management
- Land use management and involuntary resettlement etc.

**6.5 Step 5: Monitoring and Reporting on Implementation of ESMP**

This is the final step in the environmental and social assessment procedure. It requires monitoring of the ESMP Implementation by the project management team (PMT). A periodic report will be generated to reflect the level of progress and challenges experienced during the implementation of the ESMP.

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## 7. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT AND ESMF

Following the experience of YOP and that of the parent project, there will be a single PMT consisting of consultants hired by MYS, MGCSP and LACE to oversee the overall implementation of the project. The PMT will coordinate project implementation, including organizing regular PSC and NSPSC meetings. The PMT will also be responsible for developing all guidelines, AWP&B, establishing appraisal mechanisms, and working collaboratively with the three implementing entities to ensure consistent and regular flow of information between internal and external audiences. The PMT will have the following key officers: (i) National Project Coordinator; (ii) National Social Protection Coordinator, (iii) Program Managers for economic inclusion and social assistance programs; (iv) Procurement Officer, (v) Financial Management Officer; (vi) Communications Officer; (vii) M&E Officer; (viii) GBV Specialist to be hired, (ix) GRM Officer, and (x) Social safeguard officer and Environmental Officer. Key specialists and other relevant officers deemed necessary for the implementation of various interventions will form part of the PMT as well. The National Project Coordinator will serve as the link between the implementing agencies, external stakeholders, and the policy and coordination committees. The functions of PMT members will be detailed in the updated POM.

The MYS will maintain the overall responsibility of ensuring the effective implementation of this project. MYS oversees the youth agenda and by virtue of job creation being at the top of this agenda, it has also played a leading role in rallying various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders on the issue of job creation. The environmental and social safeguard officers will implement the ESMF including the monitoring of environmental and social indicators.

**Project Steering Committee (PSC):** The PSC holds overall oversight for the implementation of REALISE Project. The Committee is responsible for the approval of the annual work plan and budget and by this will approve the rollout of project activities as part of the larger project implementation plan. Quarterly reports on the performance of the component will also be provided to the Committee and summary reports/briefs may be provided to the Committee per request or as may be deemed necessary by the implementing entity. The PSC will also be responsible for addressing all policy-related matters impacting the successful implementation of the component. The Committee shall also support grievance redress for matters arising that are outside the jurisdiction of the PMT.

**Project Beneficiaries:** The Project will target vulnerable individuals or households in the informal sector that are poor or who risk falling into poverty due to the impact of COVID-19 on their livelihoods. Beneficiaries will be selected from low-income communities within project affected counties. Those who represent households in the bottom three quintiles of national consumption distribution will be targeted based on a poverty score test developed under the Liberia Household Social Registry (LHSR).

**Project Contractors:** People employed or engaged by third-party contractors to perform work related to the core function of the Project, regardless of location.

**8. BUDGET FOR ESMF IMPLEMENTATION**

Table 5 below describes the budget estimates for the implementation of the ESMF. The estimates are built on the assumption that some capacity was acquired from the parent project experiences by LACE, MGCSP and MYS as such there will be minimal implementation of proposed mitigation measures based on experience of implementation of the parent project.

The proposed budget is as follows:

Table 5: Environmental Management Plan Budget

No.	Activity/Item	Rate	Estimated Cost (USD)
	<b>Awareness and sensitization</b>		
1.	Salary for E&S Officers (Environmental Officer & Social Safeguard Officer) for the 3 years duration of the project	<u>\$5000/Month/Officer x 4 years</u>	240,000
2.	GBV Specialist	<u>\$2500/Month/Officer x 4 years</u>	120,000
3.	GRM Officer	<u>\$2500/Month/Officer x 4 years</u>	120,000
4.	Waste Management Cost	<u>75,000/Year x 4 years</u>	300,000
5.	Preparation of sub-project site specific ESMP and RAP (if required)	\$100,000	100,000
6.	PMT Safeguard training workshops	\$5,000/year x 4	20,000
7.	Grievance Redress awareness and communication (stationery and messaging)	<u>\$ 5,000/year x 4</u>	<u>20,000</u>
8.	Monitoring and Evaluation of ESMF/ESMP	<u>\$6,000/year x 4</u>	<u>\$24,000</u>
5.	Integrated Pest Management Plan Implementation	<u>59,000</u>	<u>59,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b><u>\$1,003,000</u></b>

**9. MONITORING AND REPORTING OF ESMF IMPLEMENTATION**

Monitoring is a key component of the ESMF during project implementation. It is essential that the basis for the choices and decisions made in the sub-project design and other E&S safeguard measures implemented are verified. Monitoring will verify the effectiveness of impact management, including the extent to which mitigation measures are successfully implemented. For consistency in the monitoring process, an E&S monitoring template has been developed and attached (Annex 2). During implementation, the following reports shall be developed.

- Environmental and Social Monitoring report
- Incident/accident report and
- Grievance report

Periodic monitoring of the general project and the specific sub-project activities will help to:

1. Improve environmental and social management practices;
2. Check the effectiveness of the implementing entities’ safeguard oversight responsibilities
3. Identify project problem areas at a very early stage for quick intervention.
4. Prepare and submit a quarterly report for results on all safeguards, impacts and mitigation measures the implementation in time.

Some environmental monitoring indicators to assess the effectiveness of the institutional arrangement, and mitigation measures implemented are suggested in Table 6 below.

Table 6: ESMF Monitoring Indicators.

Activities/Issues	Monitoring indicators
Site-Specific Screening	E&S site-specific screening will be conducted to determine which area meets the required standers/regulations.
Preparation of site-specific plans (ESMPs)	Site-specific plans prepared prior to commencement of project activities as required
Regulatory compliance issues	EPA’s approval/permits obtained as required
Grievances	Number of grievances resolved in the stipulated timeframe

Activities/Issues	Monitoring indicators
Site-Specific Screening	E&S site-specific screening will be conducted to determine which area meets the required standers/regulations.
Training and awareness	Number of awareness sessions on GBV issues Number of project beneficiaries attending these sessions Number of awareness sessions on pesticides used
Safety of the public	Number of reported cases of accidents involving the general public and related to works.
Occupational health and safety	Number of beneficiary incidents/accidents Number of beneficiaries near misses

## 10. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

Under the parent project, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed by the Government of Liberia through its project implementing entities (MYS, MGCSP and LACE) to maintain and ensure the process of continuous engagement with the different stakeholders during implementation of the parent project. The SEP developed for the parent project has been updated to keep engaging stakeholders for successful implementation, attaining the goal of the project expansion, and providing information on the new components with stakeholders.

The SEP provides a framework for stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the project cycle (identification, preparation, appraisal, negotiation, implementation, completion). The SEP has been designed so that the project can demonstrate engagement that is effective, meaningful, consistent, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally appropriate in line with ESS10 objectives and requirements, all the relevant Liberian legal and regulatory frameworks, and good international industrial practice. Specific objectives of the SEP include the following:

1. To establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help the Government of Liberia, through its project implementing entities, identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, project-affected parties.
2. To assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project, and to enable stakeholders' views to be considered in project design and environmental as well as social performance.
3. To promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that could potentially affect them.
4. To ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks, and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner and format.
5. To provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances, and allow the MYS, MGCSP and LACE to respond to and manage such grievances.

The project has identified three broad categories of Project stakeholders 1) project beneficiaries, 2) implementing agencies, and 3) other stakeholders. REALISE considers beneficiaries and project affected groups to be primary stakeholders, whilst implementing stakeholders includes implementing government ministries, development partners, Counties, sector offices and agencies, training, and education institutions; and other.

The SEP has identified, in the table below, a comprehensive list of stakeholders who will be consulted during the preparation of the ESMP and other E&S related documents.

Table 7: List of stakeholders at different levels by project component

<b>Project Component</b>		<b>Stakeholders at National, county and district Level</b>				
<b>Component</b>	<b>Subcomponent Description</b>	<b>National level</b>		<b>County/City</b>	<b>District/Community</b>	
Component 1: Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses	i) Business maintenance and recovery/development grants and training to existing vulnerable (temporarily closed or at risk of closure) informal small businesses; ii) Technical support and grants to new small businesses in the informal sector in urban areas (in the second phase of the project); iii) Actively promote engagement of women in higher productivity (sometimes referred to as 'male-dominated') sectors to promote higher earnings among women.	LACE, MCI, LMA, MIA, MGCSP, and other development partners	MYS, LIBA, LRA, WB,	CSC, CBOs, and City Corporation	Community Leaders, Targeted beneficiary communities, unemployed youth, women groups, Association of People with Disabilities	
Component 2: Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers	i) Labor-intensive public works to smoothen consumption and facilitate reentry into productive employment while improving environment for the poor and vulnerable in urban areas; ii) Life Skills and Employability training (personal initiative, leadership, self-efficacy, confidence, time management, basic financial literacy, sexual and reproductive health, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment at the workplace, and COVID-19 related material)	MIA, NCD, MOL, LACE, MGCSP, and other development partners	MPW, EPA, MYS, WB,	CSC, City Corporations, CBOs	Target beneficiary communities, unemployed persons, women groups, and Association of People with Disabilities	

<p>Component 3: Program Implementation , Capacity Building and Coordination</p>	<p>i) Government and other actors’ capacity strengthening for the coordination, design, and implementation; ii) Administrative, technical, and financial management of the project by PMT; iii) Coordination among all institutional partners to ensure the efficient flow of information among all actors and coordination with the private sector; iv) Establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the project’s results and impact; v) development of communication activities to publicize and disseminate project results, best practices, and success stories; and vi) Studies and impact evaluations</p>	<p>MOA, MFDP, MYS, MIA, LACE, LLA, WB, and other development partners</p>	<p>CBOs, NGOs</p>	<p>The media, CBOs, local leaders</p>
<p>Component 5: Community livelihood and agriculture support (CLAS)</p>	<p>i) Community livelihood and agriculture support to sustain consumption levels of vulnerable households. ii) build life skills, basic entrepreneurship capacities and climate resilience individuals of vulnerable households; and iii) increase economic, environmental and social benefits for communities by setting up inclusive village development plans.</p>	<p>LLA, MIA, MOA, MPW, NCD, EPA, MOL, MYS, LACE, WB, MGCSP, and other development partners</p>	<p>CSC, City Corporations, CBOs</p>	<p>Community Leaders, Targeted beneficiary communities, unemployed youth, women groups, Association of People with Disabilities</p>

	<p>iv) Business maintenance and recovery/development grants.</p> <p>v) Business skills and marketing training to cooperative key staff and</p> <p>vi) Training vulnerable farmers to promote their climate resilience.</p>			
<p>Component 6: Social Cash Transfer (SCT) to Vulnerable and Insecure Households</p>	<p>i) provide income support to extremely poor and food insecure households through regular cash transfers</p> <p>ii) expand coverage of the existing SCT program being implementing under the LSSNP by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSPP)</p> <p>iii) strengthen support to refugees and their host communities including former refugees who have recently lost their refugee status owing to invocation of the cessation clause by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</p> <p>iv) strengthen the national social safety nets delivery system</p>	<p>LLA, MIA, MOA, MPW, NCD, EPA, MOL, MYS, LACE, WB, MGCSPP, and other development partners</p>	<p>CSC, CBOs, NGOs</p>	<p>Community Leaders, Targeted beneficiary communities, unemployed youth, women groups, Association of People with Disabilities</p>

As part of the ESMF updating process for AF, consultations were held with stakeholders involved in project implementation and regulatory functions, civil society actors, people with disability, youth groups, community representatives including potential project beneficiaries, and other

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stakeholders from the private sector. The Project Management Team held separate Stakeholder consultations in November 2022 (Annex 6). The intend was to inform policy makers and key stakeholders about the project extension through AF and solicit relevant information that would aid the project design.

The consultations were focused on providing information and receiving the concerns and opinions of the participants regarding the overall project objectives, its main components and the two new components for which this ESMF was updated. A presentation of the project components was made to the consultation participants and discussions were conducted to identify existing practices, strengths, weaknesses, institutional capacity gaps and other constraints to implement the project in rural settings. Discussions were also held with the new agencies involved in carrying out regulatory functions during implementation of the ESMF procedures (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection).

Table 8: Stakeholder consultations held during preparation of ESMF and key outcomes.

No.	Name of Participant	Name of Institution	Position	Comments	Date of Consultation
1.	James Dorbor Na-kula Sao	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning	Asst. Minister Aid Management Unit	Develop a robust strategy for waste management during project implementation	Nov. 10, 2022
2.	Jlopleh D. Wiagbe Jr.	Ministry of Agriculture	Program Manager	Community based enterprises (CBEs) could be a game changer during project implementation. Supporting CBEs could enhance support to vulnerable households while promoting good waste management practice during project rollout.	Nov. 10, 2022
3.	Hon. Joseph P. Todd	Ministry of Public Works	Deputy Minister for Administration	As a means of sustainability, support implementing entities to improve their websites for project information dissemination instead of developing a standalone website that might not be managed after the project faces out.	Nov. 5, 2022
4.	Samuel Kpartor	Federation of Liberian Youth	Deputy Secretary General for Programs	Ensure the inclusion of people with disability and vulnerable groups as beneficiaries during project implementation	Nov. 14, 2022
5.	Mary Cummings	USAID Youth Advance	Deputy Chief of Party	Childcare should be given priority as a means of supporting women’s participation in project activities	Nov. 14, 2022
6.	Momolu Johnson	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Deputy Minister for Administration	Develop a robust monitoring strategy to limit the risk of political interference as the country moves towards national elections in 2023	Nov. 14, 2022

REALISE

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7.	T. Martin Allen	Young Christian Association	Men County Coordinator	Promote climate change adaptation by supporting climate smart agricultural activities	Nov. 14, 2022

## 11. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

Two grievance redress mechanisms have been established under the parent project. One for project workers, and the other for beneficiaries, citizens, and stakeholders – with various channels for submitting grievances. The GRM system under the AF will build on the one used under the parent project with various channels already being operational (including community, country, and nation-based Grievance Redress Committees (GRC), SMS/hotline, project website, etc.). Management and resolution of complaints will primarily lie with the GRCs, which consist of community elders and include representatives of venerable groups (women, youth) at various levels. Cases unresolved at lower levels will be escalated to higher levels. The project's GRM Officer will be responsible for ensuring GRM is operational, including logging and tracking all complaints received and their timely resolution, which will be tracked via an indicator in the project's Results Framework. A GRM structure for GBV/SEA-related complaints will be developed and integrated, including multiple channels to initiate a complaint and specific procedures for SEA/SH such as confidential and/or anonymous reporting with safe and ethical documentation of SEA/SH cases.

The GRMs will be promoted as much as possible as part of a communication campaign and training will be provided to beneficiaries of the project so they are aware of channels through which they could voice their grievances and complaints.

### **Grievance Scope and Resolution Mechanism**

Given that the project involves different actors, including job seekers, firms, service providers and government institutions, there is a wide range of scope for grievances to occur throughout the project cycle. Job seekers and firms could hold grievances and voice complaints at different stages of the project cycle, including at selection.

The current grievance mechanism of REALISE receives complaints from beneficiaries, affected communities, as well as interested parties. In the case of beneficiaries, the community level GRM will be the first opportunity for the resolution of grievances through discussion and mutual agreement between the project-affected persons and members of GRM committees. Community-level GRM committees will facilitate receiving, recording and resolution of grievances at their project site through a designated member (focal person) of the committee. The LIPW beneficiaries will be sensitized to put forward their grievances or concerns about anyone or anything related to the project through appropriate channels of their choice which will include:

1. Face-to-face meetings with GRM committee members, county level staff, and national staff during visits to their project site
2. Grievance boxes and desks

3. Written letters, E-mail (to be established) or SMS (3344) and hotline (3344) services.

Upon receipt of the grievance, the Community Grievance Redress Committee shall assess the grievance to establish whether it could be resolved locally or needs to be referred to the next level. Where possible, the Community Grievance Redress committee shall attempt to resolve and close the matter if the complainant is satisfied with the resolution. Where the matter has failed to be resolved or where it is deemed to be beyond the capacity of the Community Grievance Redress Committee, the matter shall be referred to the county level Grievance Redress Committee or another relevant institution for further redress. The complainant will be informed, and the determination will be appropriately recorded in a grievance register, as part of the project's Management Information System (MIS). Upon receiving a written referral from the county/community GRC, the County GRC shall also attempt to resolve the matter by convening concerned parties where possible. The same process will be repeated with further referral levels until the case is resolved.

At the national level, the PMT will establish a system for the receipt, recording and referral of complaints and grievances. This will include a dedicated SMS complaints number, an online platform, and a toll-free line (3344) through which beneficiaries and firms may lodge complaints. The PMT will dedicate an officer to manage the receipt, recording and referral of complaints and grievances. The officer may refer the complaints to the service providers or to relevant county offices for redress.

For cases that have been referred previously but have not been resolved, the officer may escalate these directly to the County Steering Committee (CSC) for review and resolution. The CSC will have, among others, a youth and private sector representative. Through this representation, general cases of complaints and feedback from existing youth representation structures (youth groups, committees, etc.) and private sector associations may be brought directly to the CSC for discussion and resolution.

At the affected community level, the community/County Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) will be the human entry point for all grievances and complaints. A committee at local level referred to as Community Oversight Committee (COC) will meet at least once a week to review and discuss complaints as deemed necessary. If it is an administration or policy related complaint, it is referred to County office.

This process is overseen and guided by the project officer responsible for grievance redress. The Officer will oversee training, information, and supervision to make sure the focal persons and the GRM committee are capacitated to receive, review and process complaints. In addition, when complaints are referred to the county level, county offices will provide a solution if possible. If this is not possible, the county office will forward the complaint to the PMT.

The GRM at the national, county and community levels, the system that will be used for the receipt, recording and referral of complaints and grievances needs to be integrated with the MIS.

Complaints received directly through the toll-free line (3344) will be provided for the beneficiary to forward their issues. Moreover, a member of GRM at the Community /County level will collect all types of grievances from beneficiaries of the various components. SMS or online mechanisms will be recorded directly into national-level MIS and referred for resolution by the relevant offices.

A grievance mechanism will be provided for all direct workers and contracted workers (and, where relevant, their organizations) to raise workplace concerns.

The GBV risk assessment of the project is rated as Moderate. The project plans to reduce gender gap and provide opportunities for women for training/work skills development in proximity to males therefore raise concerns for GBV/ SEA. These activities are likely to expose project women beneficiaries and workers to sexual exploitation and abuse as well as sexual harassment. Therefore, the project GRM will integrate GBV-sensitive measures, including multiple channels to initiate a complaint and specific procedures for SEA/SH, such as confidential and/or anonymous reporting with safe and ethical documenting of SEA/SH cases.

Unlike other cases, the project GRM will not investigate or resolve SEA/SH cases or provide redress to survivors. The role of the GRM will be to:

1. Treat the complainant with dignity and respect using a survivor-centered approach
2. Refer the complainant to GBV service providers (i.e. healthcare, psychosocial support, legal aid) and the domestic legal system at survivor's choice
3. Record only limited information about the incident to protect identity and dignity
4. If the survivor chooses (after being given complete information), inform the PIU/project of the incident to assess perpetrator accountability

Key to this process is the identification of GBV service providers. The project will identify GBV service providers in Monrovia and its environs. The project will identify key services such as health care, psycho-social support, and legal aid/domestic justice system that exist in the project area. Other services to be identified will include livelihood support, shelters, and case management. The project will provide special training for staff responsible for managing SEA/SH cases.

## **12. CHANCE FINDS PROCEDURES**

Chance finds are defined as physical cultural resources encountered unexpectedly during project implementation. Chance find Procedures include provisions for managing chance finds encountered during project implementation. **Component 2** of this project will finance Labor-intensive public works (LIPW) in urban areas. These activities will involve development of small-scale infrastructure as well as small-scale maintenance works. While Component 5 will provide immediate consumption smoothing for vulnerable youth struggling to find gainful livelihoods through community livelihood and agriculture support. Agricultural activities to be carried out

will include bush clearing, land digging, etc., the likelihood of encountering cultural resources during execution of these activities is very low because of the small-scale nature of the activities and the environment where they will be implemented. For precautionary purpose, this simplified Chance Finds Procedure has been developed to guide the public works and agricultural activities. The following steps will be followed when a Chance Find is encountered:

1. In the case of chance finds of any sites or artifacts of historical, cultural, archeological, or religious significance all construction activity in the vicinity of the find/feature/site will cease immediately.
2. The discovery will be clearly delineated and secured, and all found remains will be left in situ.
3. The contractor responsible for the site will immediately notify the Coordinator of the Project Management Team. The Coordinator of the Project Management Team will then notify the relevant national authority immediately of the discovery.
4. The relevant national authority will take charge of the of the finding, and institute the appropriate course of actions, including proper documentation, removal, and storage.
5. An on-site finds storage area will be provided, allowing storage of any artifacts or other archaeological material recovered during the process.
6. Work will only resume after the relevant national agency has completed its work and has given instructions to the Project Management Team for Work to resume. The contractor will then receive instruction from the Project Coordinator of the Project Management Unit or his/her designated officer to resume work.

This Chance Find Procedure will be communicated to all contractors, as appropriate. An updated version of this Chance Find Procedure which should include contact details of relevant agency and contact persons of the Project Management Team shall be developed as part of the site-specific ESMPs.

### **13. ESMF Disclosure**

Public disclosure of E&S documents is a requirement of the World Bank as well as the national environmental impact assessment laws and guidelines, and therefore the ESMF of the AF will be available to project affected groups, local NGOs, and the public at large. The PMT will make copies of the ESMF available in selected public places as required for information and comments as well as in the media. The ESMF will be announced and published on the websites of the project implementing entities. There will a public notification in local dailies that provides a brief description of the project, a list of venues where the ESMF report is on display and available for review, duration of display, and contact information for comments. The ESMF will subsequently

be disclosed on the World Bank's website after in-country disclosure. And also disclose the stand-alone and alone ESMP as well as all subprojects. Disclosure in-country and on the World Bank's website will take place before the board date.

#### **14. Integrated Pest Management Plan**

Though component 5 of the AF project is expected to bring positive environmental benefits to the project areas through the introduction of agriculture activities that promotes sustainable practice and applications that help improve current cropping patterns and farming methods, increase efficiency in the management of water resources, protect agriculture soils, and roll out integrated pest management. The modification and strengthening of agricultural activities under the project could lead to changes in the application of pesticides for pest and disease control. Beneficiary might involve the use of pesticide to extend their crops which will triggers ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management.

This activity will require the need to prepare a pest management plan in place to develop capacity and provide support to enable project beneficiaries that will engage in agricultural activities to improve productivity and the quality of their produce. It specifies a means of assessing and documenting the range of nonchemical methods used for pest management in the form of IPM throughout the project life circle, the preparation of a detailed action plan and a training and monitoring program to facilitate implementation. This intervention is expected to result in increased productivity coupled with reduced post-harvest losses, improved product range and quality, more efficient processing and improved marketing, thereby generating additional incomes for producers.

This Pest Management Plan (PMP) section has been prepared in order to address the concerns related to the risks associated with the envisioned possible increase in the use of pesticides that will result from project as a whole and roll out Integrated Pest Management within the project in a strategic manner, while meeting safeguards requirements and also to promote the use of a combination of environmentally and socially friendly practices (hygienic, cultural, biological or natural control mechanisms and the judicious use of chemicals) and reduce reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides and ensure that health, social and environmental hazards associated with pesticides are minimized under the Project and within acceptable limit requirements.

#### **AF Project Component 5 Is likely to require Integrated Pest Management Requirements**

This AF project new component 5 likely to require pest management, particularly. This component will provide support to vulnerable youth and other community members in rural areas of eight counties in Liberia. The counties will include Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, and Sinoe Counties. Interventions under the component will focus on providing income-earning opportunities to rural community dwellers who are struggling to find gainful livelihood opportunities as a result of the negative impact of COVID-19 on their livelihoods.

**Potential Risk through (Transportation, Storage, Handling, Application and Disposal)**

In all instances where pesticides- dependent pest control practices are adopted in agriculture practices. pesticide misuse is known to be common and results in a number of environmental consequences that can threaten the subsistence of agriculture and life itself in localities they are used. Every pesticide applicator should understand the hazards of transporting pesticides and the procedures for minimizing those risks. Pesticides are moved by manufacturers to distributors, from retailers to end users, and from storage sites to job sites. Transportation related accidents can happen at any point along the way. The first line of defense is recognizing how to prevent these transportation mishaps. When accidents occur, the timing of your response could determine the size of the spill.

Some of the key consequences that have been eminent are listed below.

1. Development of pest resistance to pesticides, encouraging further increases in the use of chemical pesticides
2. Destruction of pollinators of crop plants leading to poor crop yields
3. Abuses associated with pesticide supply and sales, and General health and safety of farmers and environmental hazards.
4. Elimination of the natural enemies of pests and consequent loss of natural pest control that keeps the population of crop pests very low.
5. Contamination of the soil and water bodies.
6. Pesticide poisoning of farmers and deleterious effects on human health Loss of biodiversity in the environment, particularly of aquatic species

Every pesticide used in Liberia is subjected to registration and approval by the EPA and the relevant government agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture. However due to porous border control and the fact that EPA do not have the requisite staff stationed at entry or customs points to regulate the products, some pesticides may enter the country without verification.

Considerable attention must therefore be paid to the environmental consequences of current pest management practices adopted within the agriculture sector. Key mitigation measures are therefore required to address those concerns, these are highlighted in table below.

**Key Mitigation Measures to be Included in the proposed PMP to combat major issues identified**

<b>Major Issues</b>	<b>Actions required</b>
Environmental hazards of pesticide misuse	Create public awareness of the hazards of pesticide misuse through public awareness campaigns Regular assessment of pesticide residuals in irrigated agricultural production systems and in harvested produce Monitoring of pesticide poisoning in farming and rural communities.

Only carry a minimum amount of pesticide products on a vehicle at any one time.

Keep pesticide containers in the original designated location.

Change current pest management practices to allocate adequate resources to implement National Plant Protection policy, Increase IPM awareness among policy makers and farming community

Increased use and reliance on chemical pesticides and Promote adoption of IPM practices through farmer education and training via agriculture extension services Move farmers away from pesticide dependent pest control practices and promote use of botanical pesticides and biological controls.

IPM research and Extension Strengthen IPM research at National level and strengthen IPM extension

### **Implementation of the Pest Management Plan**

It is anticipated that some of the beneficiaries of the project will engage in agricultural activities as a mean of empowering themselves and improving their livelihood. However, those to engage in agricultural activities are not expected to require significant pest management, nor is the project contemplating activities that may lead to significant or specific pest and pesticide management issues. Hence, general pest problems and their management are covered under this plan. The activities proposed for implementation under the Pest Management Plan are based on the following objectives: to promote and support safe, effective, and environmentally sound pest management in agricultural interventions undertaken under the ESMF. The Plan further presents components to strengthen such capacity. The activities promote the use of biological and environmental control methods and the reduction in reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides and they address pest management issues in the context of the project's key interventions.

Common pests expected in the project areas are rodents and migratory and outbreak pests such as locusts, caterpillar, nematode, aphid and mealy bug. IPM strategies are recommended and used by some farmers as much as it is possible because there is no one control practice that can provide acceptable control of the target pest.

### **procedure to reduce potential pest damage to crops and the environment**

Strengthening pest forecasting, weeding for clean bunds and fields regular surveillance. The earlier the presence of rodents is observed, the cheaper and simpler any subsequent action will be, and losses will remain negligible, Promotion Agronomic Control, Promotion Physical Control, Promotion of Biological Controls, Chemical Control, Storage Sanitation. It is much easier to notice the presence of rodents if the storage is clean Proofing i.e., making storage area rat-proof in order to discourage rodents from entering, Trapping, Place the traps in strategic positions, Use recommended rodenticide. However, bait poisons should be used only if rats are present in storages or buildings, use single-dose anticoagulant poisons, preferably as ready-made baits. And tidy. Courage team approach for effectiveness

**Awareness to avoid the use of pest through the preparation of strategic communication materials**

Awareness creation on the unfriendly effects of pesticides there will be done targeting applicants of the Matching Grants Program and the project areas covered under Component 5. These programs will include along with project beneficiaries, various stakeholders residing in the project area, including the community, government officers, project staff and local politicians. Awareness materials include posters, flyers, brochures, etc. The following key areas will be covered via the material prepared.

1. Integrated Crop Management
2. Integrated diseases management
3. Integrated weed management
4. Health issues of pesticide application
5. Safe use of agrochemicals
6. Steps in integrated pest management

**COMMON PESTS IN THE PROJECT AREA**

This section presents common pests and diseases that affect production of commonly grown crops in the project area. Communities in rural Liberia mainly grow common beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), groundnuts (*Arachis hypogaeae*), maize (*Zea mays*), rice (*Oryza sativa*), cassava, as well as tomatoes, okra, pepper, bitter ball, cabbage, cucumber, watermelon, eggplant, etc. All these crops are vulnerable to pest attack.

**WHAT PESTS ARE**

Pests are organisms that damage or interfere with desirable plants in our fields or damage homes or other structures. Pests also include organisms that impact human or animal health. Pests may transmit disease or may be just a nuisance. A pest can be a plant (weed), vertebrate (bird, rodent, or other mammal), invertebrate (insect, tick, mite, or snail), nematode, pathogen (bacteria, virus, or fungus) that causes disease, or other unwanted organism that may harm water quality, animal life, or other parts of the ecosystem.

**INSECTS****American bollworm: (*Heliothis armigera*)**

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American bollworm larvae feed on bud, flowers, and bolls of cotton, on tomato, on bud and pods of beans and peas, on the milky-ripe grain of maize cobs, sorghum, and wheat. Also, sunflower and groundnuts may be severely attacked. The larvae bore into and feed on the inner parts of the fruits or plant, often with the hind part of the body exposed.

#### **Aphids (aphididae)**

Aphids are small, soft bodied, pear shaped polyphagous insects. They live in colonies on different parts of the plant, mostly on young shooters and leaves. They pierce and suck the plants and produce a sugary extract which encourages the development of “sooty mould”. They also transmit viruses.

#### **Army - worm (spodoptera sp.)**

Army worms feed on plants of numerous families including groundnuts, maize, beans, sorghum, wheat, tobacco, tomato, rice, and okra. The older stages of the caterpillars devour the leaves of their hosts completely or leave only the midrib, while young caterpillars crap off the tissue on one side of the leaves so that they dry up.

#### **Bean fly or bean stem maggot (Ophiomyia phaseoli)**

This is the significant pest on beans. The small, black flies insert their eggs into the primary leaves of the seedlings. They attack the petiole and main stem to the base of the stem, where the feeding causes the swelling and cracking of the stem. Young plants when attacked start wilting and eventually die.

#### **Beetles**

Beetles feed on various parts of many crops. They cause damage to the leaves, and they can also destroy the flowers so that fruit and seed setting is affected. For example, lady birds (*epilachna* sp.) may skeletonize the leaves of maize, wheat, and cucurbits, and may cause them to shrivel dry up. Blister beetles, or pollen beetles (*mylabris* sp.), black with red orange or yellow transverse bands, feed on the flowers of crops such as groundnuts, cowpea, beans, pasture legumes and okra, and can destroy the fruit and prevent seed setting.

#### **Bugs (heteroptera sp.)**

Bugs are very destructive pests which may cause great damage to many crops and are found sucking on leaves, stems, petioles, flowers, and buds causing whole plants to wilt, dry up and eventually die. The grains and seeds of cereals, especially rice, are important sources of food for several bug species.

#### **Cutworms (agritos sp.)**

Cutworms may cause considerable damage in nurseries and newly planted fields by cutting the roots and lower stems of seedlings. During the day they remain hidden in the soil, near their host.

**Grasshoppers (acridoidea)**

They chew the leaves of plants and will attack a wide range of crops. They can also be transmitters of virus.

**Leaf hoppers (cicadellidae jassidae)**

Leaf hoppers generally live in scattered colonies on the underside of leaves where they suck the sap and damage the plants through their feeding and toxic salivary. They are probably more damaging as vectors of virus diseases. Their main hosts are maize, cotton, rice, and groundnuts.

**Mites (tetranychidae)**

Mites are tiny, yellow, or cream colored and feed on the underside of the leaves and produce a speckling of very small, white, or yellowish spots on the leaves. The spider mites attack numerous plants for including beans, cotton, groundnuts, tomatoes, eggplant, and cucurbits.

**Nematodes or eel worms (meloidogyne sp., Heterodera sp., Phatylenchus sp.)**

These are whitish transparent microscopic, cylindrical worms and spend some of their time in the soil, penetrating the roots of the plants forming galls (root knot nematodes.). The root system is eventually stunted and reduced. Nematodes attack a great number of plant species, including beans, potatoes, etc.

**Thrips (thripidae)**

These are small slender insects, 1-2mm long that pierces and suck the leaves of onions, groundnuts, etc.

**DISEASES**

Crops targeted under the program are susceptible to many diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, viruses, micro plasma, and nematodes. These organisms survive and propagate in various ways and may survive on plant residue, in soil, in alternate host and in or on the seed of plants. Key diseases of the target crops are as listed below:

**Angular leaf spot (Isariopsis griseola)**

Angular leaf spot causes angular, dark brown lesions on bean leaves, which can be so numerous that the leaf is given a checkerboard appearance. A characteristic symptom is a production of black spore-masses on the underside of the leaf.

**Anthraxnose (colletotrichum sp.)**

This is common on many hosts such as beans, soya beans, cucumber, etc. It causes seed destruction, cotyledon spotting and foliage browning. On leaves it often starts as dark green, water-soaked spots, which enlarge and become brown with darker borders. Dead portions of

veins may be seen on the underside. On bean pods, the sunken, pink-colored cankers are conspicuous.

#### **Bacterial blight (*xanthomonas oryzae*)**

Bacterial blight appears only on rice leaves first as watery, dark green stripes, which latter become light brown.

#### **Common blight (*xanthomonas phaseoli*) and Halo blight (*pseudomonas phaseolicola*)**

These are both bacterial diseases of beans which may be seed borne and share many similarities in the symptoms and action. First, small water-soaked spots appear on the leaves, and then the lesions turn brown and increase. In halo blights the spots can be surrounded by broad yellow circles. Spots also appear on stems where they turn into a reddish color. On pods, small water-soaked spots appear and grow larger. The tissue around each spot is reddish-brown. Finally, the spots dry and form sunken areas covered with dry bacterial ooze. All kind of beans from soya beans to French beans are affected.

#### **Damping off (*pythium sp.*, *Rhizoctania sp.*)**

These are soils inhabiting fungi affecting near the soil line and thereby killing vary young seedlings before or just after emergence.

#### **Downy mildew (*Peronospora sp.*, *plasmopora sp.*, *pseudoperonospora sp.*)**

Downy mildews attack Lucerne, and soya beans. First symptom is a mottling with pale green areas all over the leaf. The spots soon become yellow and angular in contrast to the otherwise green blade. The entire leaf dies quickly.

#### **Leaf spots**

Leaf blight on sorghum, maize, and rice caused by *helminthosporium sp.*, develops long pale brown spots on leaves which may spread and kill the leaves. The ears and stems may also be infected. Leaf spots are caused by many different pathogens and appear on many crops sometimes very severely. In general, these lesions first appear on the older and lower leaves and then move upwards. They usually start as small, mostly brown, round spots which increase in number and size causing withering and premature defoliation. Leaf spot of groundnuts (*cercopora sp.*) are small, round, brown spots increasing in numbers causing defoliation of the leaves. The yield and quality of nuts may be drastically reduced. Long pale brown spots with reddish edges on sorghum are caused by *cercospora sp.* Leaf spots of various shapes and colors on sunflower, tomato, soya bean, sweet potato and wheat are caused by *septoria sp.*

#### **Loose smut (*ustilago nuda*)**

This is a seed borne disease of cereals where the infection is carried inside the seed. When infected seed is planted, the mycelium of the pathogen keeps pace with the growing point of the

host plant and at flowering the ear is almost completely replaced by a mass of dark brown spores. These spores are dispersed by the wind and may infect the ovary of florets on neighboring plants. The germinating spores penetrate the ovary wall and complete the infection cycle. Control is by use of systemic fungicides capable of penetrating the seed and controlling the internal infection, or resistant varieties and certified seed.

#### **Mosaic virus**

Cause a mottling of light green areas and dark green patches of affected leaves. The leaves develop irregularly. The leaf edges are usually curled downwards and sometimes become very narrow. Fruits may have odd shapes and yield is reduced. The disease may be seed borne and attacks a wide range of host plants.

#### **Powdery mildew (*odium* sp., *erysiphe* sp)**

Symptoms are first seen as white powdery pustules on either upper or lower leaf surfaces, soon covering the whole leaf which turns necrotic. Powdery mildew is very destructive during the dry season, particularly on tobacco, wheat, peas, cucurbits, and okra.

#### **Rust (*uromyces* sp., *puccinia* sp.)**

This disease causes yellowish, orange, red or brown, slightly raised pustules, appearing on the leaf surfaces. Rusts are particularly important pathogens of members of the gramineae family i.e., cereals and pasture grasses, but also many other crops, such as beans, peas, eggplant and sweet potatoes may be attacked, sometimes severely. They have complex life cycles frequently involving alternate hosts.

#### **Wilt**

Wilt can be caused either by fungal (e.g. *fusarium* spp., *verticillium* spp.), or bacterial organisms (e.g. *xanthomonas* spp., *pseudomonas* spp., *erwinia* spp.). Infected plants appear generally unhealthy, chlorotic, and wilt. The initial symptoms are a yellowing of the foliage and a gradual wilting and withering, and ultimately the plant becomes permanently wilted and dies. Wilts cause very serious losses in potatoes, groundnut, maize, cucumber, eggplant, cassava, etc., particularly under wet conditions.

#### **Rust**

Common rust (*puccinia sorghi*) is a fungus which produces small powdery pustules on the leaves of maize and other plants. Alternative host is *oxalis* sp. Other diseases of significant effect on maize include Southern rust (*puccinia polysora*) which is a fungus producing small pustules, lighter in colour than *puccinia polysora*). Others are Leaf blight (*helminthosporium turcicum*), a fungal disease producing slightly oval small spots on the leaves, later increasing in size as well as Stalk rot (*diplodia maydis*) a fungus causing browning of the pith of internodes which are easily broken. The cobs may also be affected. One viral disease of significant importance to maize is

Maize streak virus which is transmitted by leaf hoppers and causes yellow streaks along the veins and stunted growth.

### **PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CLAS**

The preferred approach to pest management under the REALISE project is IPM. This section provides guidance on how best to maximize pest management interventions with minimal negative impacts on the environment and human health using the principles of IPM. The section is not meant to provide a detailed prescription of cultural practices as cultural practices differ widely depending on the characteristic of each crop species being grown and the agro-ecological and other environmental conditions prevailing at each site where the project activities will be carried out. Rather, the section is meant to bring to the fore vital IPM considerations for incorporation in prevailing cultural practices applicable at each project site. It should be noted that IPM cannot be applied as a cast transplant of interventions and practices, rather it is a set of interventions developed based on a good understanding of prevailing environmental and other conditions at a given field incorporating the most fitting aspects of IPM tools commensurate with resources at the farmer's disposal.

This can be achieved by following a stepwise process elaborated below:

#### **STEP 1: FIELD ASSESSMENT AND PEST IDENTIFICATION**

The first step in IPM is crop or field monitoring involving observations of the field and immediate surroundings to identify the presence of pests or conditions which may be conducive for pest proliferation within the context of prevailing cultural practices. This exercise should be carried out at every stage of the crop calendar starting at harvest through field preparation up to harvest time again.

This exercise may involve walking through each field randomly or following a transect pattern taking note of pest infestation, growth stage and rates of infestation for each pest species in each crop. The information collected can then be recorded and ranked to give an indication of relative prevalence for each category of pest. Pests recording a higher level of infestation will in this way be prioritized for action while not losing sight of the need to address the other pests too though prevailing at a relatively lower rate of infestation.

The importance of conducting an all-year-round monitoring of pests is to ensure collection of adequate information for planning purposes. This is because effective IPM requires timely planning. For example, identification of pests prevailing at harvest time and their pattern of growth will help to plan the next crop with a view to controlling the identified weeds in a timely manner. The historical data collected through such monitoring will thus provide vital information in planning the best combination of IPM interventions.

#### **STEP 2: THRESHOLD DETERMINATION AND ACTION PLANNING**

Results of field assessment conducted should lead to a determination of whether or not action is needed to address the pest or condition prevailing as well as decision-making on when to institute such action. Where a pest is present an assessment of the level of infestation is made and if it reaches a threshold of potential damage appropriate preventive action should be taken against that particular pest or a combination of pests using any or a combination of biological, cultural, physical/mechanical and chemical management tools. In this way, rather than having a fixed scheduled program of e.g., chemical spray, results of monitoring should help decide if or not action should be taken and the nature and level of action to be taken.

Similarly, results of environmental conditions monitoring will be used to determine and assess if or not the prevailing conditions favor pest infestation or plant growth based on which action can be taken to manipulate the ecosystem or environmental conditions in favor of the crop.

### **STEP 3: IPM IMPLEMENTATION**

The implementation stage will involve application of one or a mix of IPM interventions identified as best suiting under prevailing circumstances. Below are several considerations to be borne in the implementation of choice interventions.

#### **Considerations under Physical/Mechanical Control**

1. Develop and strictly enforce adherence to safety rules and codes of conduct; Provide training to all staff on occupational health and safety as well as on ensuring personal protection and safety
2. Provide appropriate safety gear
3. Reduce the harmful characteristics of impact sources by devising less harmful ways of effecting project activities
4. Localize project impacts as much as possible by taking precautions in effecting project activities to limit effects on non-target elements of the environment
5. Explore ways and means of enhancing the resilience and regenerative/recovery capacity of impacted elements of the environment deemed useful
6. Streamline Better Management Practices as an integral part of project implementation.

#### **Considerations under Biological Control**

7. Use proven host specific biological control agents,
8. Conduct specificity tests in the host environment before release,
9. Quarantine biological control agents undergoing specificity test.
10. Develop and strictly enforce adherence to safety rules and codes of conduct
11. Provide training to all staff on occupational health and safety as well as on ensuring personal protection and safety; Provide appropriate safety gear; Provide First Aid medical facilities
12. Recruit qualified First Aid Attendants; Maintain emergency responsiveness

13. Reduce the harmful characteristics of impact sources by devising less harmful ways of effecting project activities
14. Localize project impacts as much as possible by taking precautions in effecting project activities to limit effects on non-target elements of the environment
15. Explore ways and means of enhancing the resilience and regenerative/recovery capacity of impacted elements of the environment deemed useful
16. Streamline Better Management Practices as an integral part of project implementation.

#### **Considerations under Chemical Control**

1. Consider both human health and environmental effects of target pesticides before use
2. Sensitize and train workers on pesticide management, calibration of sprayers,
3. Develop and enforce protocols for safe use of pesticides
4. Avoid direct spray on water bodies,
5. Avoid washing sprayers in natural water bodies,
6. Avoid spraying during windy conditions, wear personal protective gear (appropriate respirators), avoid spraying in areas close to settlements and other populated areas, use wetting agents to minimize dripping
1. Use only recommended pesticides at recommended application rates. Do not overdose,
2. Contain any spills and clean up to avoid contamination of the environment
3. Dispose of chemical containers properly
4. Develop and strictly enforce adherence to safety rules and codes of conduct
5. Provide training to all staff on occupational health and safety as well as on ensuring personal protection and safety
6. Provide appropriate safety gear
7. Reduce the harmful characteristics of impact sources by devising less harmful ways of effecting project activities
8. Localize project impacts as much as possible by taking precautions in effecting project activities to limit effects on non-target elements of the environment
9. Explore ways and means of enhancing the resilience and regenerative/recovery capacity of impacted elements of the environment deemed useful
10. Streamline Better Management Practices as an integral part of project implementation.
11. Store pesticides under lock and key on impermeable surface that is bundled
12. Wash hands before eating, drinking, or using the toilet. Remove clothing immediately if pesticide gets inside, wash thoroughly and put on clean clothing."

#### **Considerations under Cultural Practices**

1. Timely removal of weeds to reduce seed bank build up
2. Cleaning of tools to eliminate potential sources of infestation
3. Use of clean seed free of pests and diseases

4. Cleaning the field before planting. This can be done e.g., by allowing weeds to germinate before planting after which they can be controlled by a choice of appropriate herbicide or cultivation and planting thereafter
5. Avoid clearing and burning non target plants
6. Control erosion by limiting land clearing and setting up sediment traps along storm ways
7. Develop and strictly enforce adherence to safety rules and codes of conduct
8. Reduce the harmful characteristics of impact sources by devising less harmful ways of effecting project activities
9. Localize project impacts as much as possible by taking precautions in effecting project activities to limit effects on non-target elements of the environment
10. Explore ways and means of enhancing the resilience and regenerative/recovery capacity of impacted elements of the environment deemed useful
11. Streamline Better Management Practices as an integral part of project implementation
12. Provide training to all staff on occupational health and safety as well as on ensuring personal protection and safety
13. Provide appropriate safety gears

#### **TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Several capacity building interventions will be required under the project to ensure effective implementation of the IPMP in an environmentally friendly and socially acceptable manner. The following interventions are hereby proposed:

1. Training of staff in the life cycle management of pesticides covering selection, usage, and safe disposal of containers. Trainees should be sensitized enough to use only pesticides with authentic and clear labels showing all the necessary information including expiry dates, occupational/public health, and safety as well as basic environmental safeguards. This will also help avoid adulteration and sale of expired herbicides.
2. Training/Sensitization in the use of personal protective equipment, treatment of any pesticide poisoning, interpretation of material safety data sheets and labels on pesticide containers and safe storage of pesticides
3. Training in First Aid and Emergency Response with a focus on treatment of chemical poisoning and pesticide spill management
4. Sensitization on weather and other environmental related considerations insecticide application e.g., avoiding spraying when it is about to rain, when it is windy, when it is too hot or when the soil is wet or in ponded areas or areas close to water sources (e.g., rivers, creeks, wells, etc.) and populated areas.
5. Training should be provided in both formal and informal settings including Field Days, as appropriate in meeting the specific training objectives. A training needs assessment would help in setting the training agenda and ensure that the training sessions are relevant and tailored to answer farmers' pressing information needs.

### Monitoring and Reporting

Effective implementation of the IPMP will require regular monitoring of its implementation for timely corrective actions. Monitoring will cover all aspects of the IPMP implementation starting at the field level where PMT will monitor aspects such as:

1. Implementation of proposed capacity building interventions
2. Environmentally friendliness of applied IPM interventions e.g., by monitoring the prevalence/survival of non-target plant and animal species
3. Soil and water contamination
4. Public and occupational health and safety e.g., Incidences of poisoning or injury

Monitoring results will be used to improve implementation of the IPMP through documentation of lessons learnt on the most effective, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective combination of interventions.

### Proposed Budget for IPMP Implementation

Effective implementation of the IPMP will require adequate provision of funds to cover planned activities. The table below gives an indicative budget for implementation of the plan. It should however be noted that the adopted IPM approach in practice will mean spreading pest management costs across all aspects of crop management. Therefore, only aspects aimed at capacity building and monitoring are included here.

No.	Activities	Cost, US\$
<b>1</b>	<b>Training and Capacity Building Costs</b>	
1.1	Training, sensitization, and awareness in IPMP and its implementation	10,000
1.2	Training in safe and environmentally friendly pesticide use including (i) understanding and interpretation of labels and symbols on pesticides, (ii) transportation, storage and disposal of pesticides and pesticide containers and (iv) personal safety and hazard understanding for self-protection	15,000
1.3	Training and sensitization in biological control of pests	8,000
1.4	Development and enforcement of an occupational health and safety protocol covering (1) mechanical control, (2) chemical control and (3) biological control aspects of occupational health and safety.	5,000
<b>2</b>	<b>Monitoring and Reporting Costs</b>	
2.1	Water sampling and analysis (surface water resource)	5,000
2.2	Water sampling and analysis (underground water resources)	5,000
2.3	Soil sampling	5,000
2.4	Monitoring of IPM adoption and implementation	6,000

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	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>59,000</b>

**ANNEX 1: SUBPROJECT SCREENING CHECKLIST FORM**

*To be completed by Service Provider/Project ES Safeguards Officers, reviewed by Project E&S Safeguards Officers and approved by the Project Coordinator*

Serial No.....

Sub-Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Description of Proposed Sub-Project**

**1.1 Nature of Sub-Project and Estimated Duration**

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.....

**1.2 Scope of Sub-Project** [Size of labor force, area covered or length & width of road, type of raw materials (quantities and sources), types of equipment, implements, machinery, etc.]

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**1. Waste Generation**

- i. Types: Solid  Liquid  Gaseous  Other .....
- ii. Quantity: .....
- iii. Means/Place of Disposal: .....

**2.0 Proposed Site for Sub-Project**

**2.1 Location [attach a site plan or a map (if available)]**

i. Location or Area (and nearest Town(s):

.....

ii. Land take (total area for sub-project and related activities):

.....

**2.2 Land Use of the Area for the proposed Sub-Project:**

- |               |                          |                 |                          |                 |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Residential     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Existing Dugout | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Existing Road | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reservation     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Park/Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Industrial    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |                 |                          |

**2.3 Site Description [Attach photographs and sketches showing distances]**

1. Distance from nearest water body or drainage channel (minimum distance measured from the edge of proposed site to the bank of the water body or drain).

- More than 100 meters       100 meters       Less than 100 meters

1. Number of water bodies and/or drainage channels/depressions crossed by the route/road corridor:.....

2. Distance to nearest community (house) and/or other existing structures from the proposed site:.....

3. Number of communities (structures) along the entire stretch of the Sub project road:.....

4. Will project increase pressure on land resources ... ..

5. Will project result in involuntary land take .....

6. Will people assets or livelihoods be affected .....

viii. Will people lose access to natural resources .....



- ii. Have adverse effect on wetland areas through removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means? Yes  No
- iii. Interfere substantially with the movement of any wildlife species or organisms? Yes  No
- vi. Be located within 100m from an Environmentally Sensitive Area? Yes  No

**4.3 Existing Population:**

- 1. Will people living in or near the project area be adversely affected  
.....  
.....

**4.4 Cultural Resources -** Would the proposed Sub-project:

- i. Disturb any burial grounds or cemeteries? Yes  No
- ii. Cause substantial adverse effect on any archeological or historic site? Yes  No
- iii. Alter the existing visual character of the area and surroundings, including trees and rock outcrops? Yes  No

**4.5 Water Quality and Hydrology -** Would the proposed Sub-project:

- i. Generate and discharge during construction:
 

Liquid waste <input type="checkbox"/>	Liquid with oily substance <input type="checkbox"/>
Liquid with human or animal waste <input type="checkbox"/>	Liquid with chemical substance <input type="checkbox"/>
Liquid with pH outside 6-9 range <input type="checkbox"/>	Liquid with odor/smell <input type="checkbox"/>
- 2. Lead to changes in the drainage pattern of the area, resulting in erosion or siltation? Yes  No
- iii. Lead to increase in surface run-off, which could result in flooding on or off-site? Yes  No
- iv. Increase runoff, which could exceed the capacity of existing storm water drainage? Yes  No

**4.6 Noise Nuisance -** Would the proposed Undertaking:

- i. Generate noise in excess of established permissible noise level? Yes  No
- ii. Expose persons to excessive vibration and noise? Yes  No

**4.7 Other Environmental and Social Impacts**

.....  
.....

**5.0 Management of (Environmental and Social) Impacts**

**5.1 Air Quality**

.....  
.....

**5.2 Biological Resources**

.....  
.....

**5.3 Cultural Resources**

.....  
.....

**5.4 Water Quality and Hydrology**

.....  
.....

**5.5 Noise**

.....  
.....  
.....

**5.6 Any Other**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Representative of  
Community Facilitator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of LACE Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of LACE Social  
Protection Program Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**ANNEX 2: ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL MONITORING REPORT TEMPLATE**

1. **Name of project:**
  
2. **Subproject Location:**
  
3. **Reporting Period:**
  
4. **Project/Activity Brief:** Brief overview of the project, including description of activities undertaken/ongoing during the reporting period.
  
5. **Update on the implementation of all recommendations made during the previous reporting period (if this is not the first monitoring report)**
6. **Environmental and Social Status Report**
  1. Description of the environmental and social impacts of activities undertaken/ongoing during the reporting period. This should include information on incident/accident recorded/reported during the reporting period
  2. Project Compliance with environmental and social policy, laws and regulations
  3. Status of implementation of site-specific plans including outcomes of implementation of mitigation measures
  
4. **Other Observations**
  
5. **Conclusions and Recommendations to Project Management Listing of recommendations for adjustments so that project becomes fully compliant**
  
6. **Name of Monitor:**

Signature:

Date:

Approved by Project Manager:

Date:

**ANNEX 3: GENERIC PROJECT ESMP**

Project Component/Activity	Potential Risks/Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility
<p><b>Component 1: Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses</b></p>	<p><b>GBV issues:</b> Exposure of project women beneficiaries and workers to sexual exploitation and abuse as well as sexual harassment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project will develop and implement SEA/SH action plan. The plan will be implemented throughout the lifecycle of the project.</li> <li>2. Code of Conduct for project workers to be developed and widely disseminated to project staff and staff of contractors.</li> <li>3. Project GRM to incorporate GBV issues and ensure that GBV service providers are identified in project area for referral purposes.</li> <li>4. Provide GBV trainings for project staff and all stakeholder involved in the project implementation.</li> <li>5. Provide SEA/SH awareness for project beneficiaries especially women</li> </ol>	<p>MYS/LACE/PIU</p>

		beneficiaries who likely to be affected	
	<p><b>Increased risk of COVID-19 infection:</b> Projects activities are likely to bring people into close proximity and are likely to increase in person interactions. The</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project to provide COVID-19 awareness to project beneficiaries and project staff</li> <li>2. Ensure that project staff and beneficiaries adhere to COVID-19 protocol as advised by the Government of Liberia</li> </ol>	MYS/LACE/PIU
	<p><b>Health and safety issues:</b> Exposure to unacceptable levels of occupational health risks such as noise, lighting and personal injury to beneficiary apprentices and their master trainers.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relevant risk assessment to be undertaken and induction training including relevant occupational health and safety awareness must be given all new entrants.</li> <li>2. Provide training and proper supervision</li> <li>3. Appropriate PPE to be provided by the project as required and be worn at all times to minimize exposure to identified risks.</li> </ol>	MYS/LACE/PIU
	<p>Risk of financing micro enterprises that have the potential to</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project implementation manual to include a “negative list” that excludes activities/enterprises</li> </ol>	MYS/LACE/PIU

	adversely impact the environment	that have the potential to pollute the environment. The “negative list” to be adhered to during selection of project activities for financing.	
<p><b>Component 2: Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers (Small-scale public works activities)</b></p>	<p>Environmental issues/concerns associated with the small-scale public work activities, including erosion, wastes generation, noise, pollution of water resources, air and soil.</p>	<p>2. During implementation, ensure that subproject activities are screened and appropriate site-specific action plans are developed to address issues related to waste generation, noise, water and soil pollution.</p> <p>3. Ensure that equipment used on site are regularly maintained and kept in good running condition.</p> <p>4. Use noise barrier/silencer where possible</p> <p>5. Avoid unnecessary clearing of vegetation to minimize erosion</p> <p>6. Ensure that waste generated onsite are collected and disposed at</p>	<p>MYS/LACE/PIU</p>

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		<p>authorized waste disposal sites</p> <p>7. Project to ensure that open burning of wastes is discouraged.</p> <p>8. Dumping of wastes and unsuitable materials generated from project activities in water courses to be prohibited.</p>	
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**Annex 4: Project Negative List****Negative list (non-fundable)**

1. Cash crop production (Rubber, coffee, cocoa)
2. Production and sale of tobacco products
3. Use of pesticides on the World Health Organization's Hazardous Pesticides List which are not recommended.
4. Aquaculture using non-native species in natural water bodies.
5. Activities that negatively affect natural protected areas recognized by state or municipal governments (or buffer zones thereof)
6. Use of land which has unclear titles
7. Activities relating to forestry production
8. Activities that will be deemed damaging to the environment (such as clearance of key water catchment areas and use of chemicals)
9. Sub-project requiring no heavy equipment earth moving equipment
10. Environmentally damaging technologies

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**Annex 5: Contents of the EIA/ESIA Report**

The EIA/ESIA report should contain a brief introduction explaining the need for the context of the project. There may be other applicable criteria of the project that may have to be reviewed. However, to avoid delay in the review process, the proponent should ensure that all sections listed below are included in the report.

1. Executive summary
2. Introduction or overview of the project
3. Policy, legal and administrative framework
4. Detailed project description
5. Description of the potentially affected Environment including specific information necessary for identifying and assessing the environmental effect of the proposed project of activities
6. Impact Prediction and Evaluation
7. Socio-economic analysis of project impacts
8. Economic Information regarding the project (could be ignored)
9. Environmental Management Plan and Mitigation Measures
10. Identification of Alternatives
11. Environmental Management and Training
12. Monitoring Program
13. Public Participation
14. A statement of the degree of irreversible damage and an explanation
15. A description of the best available technology
16. An emergency response plan
17. An indication of any difficulty encountered in the EIA
18. Conclusion and Recommendations
19. List of References
20. Annexes

**World Bank Indicative outline of ESIA**

Where an environmental and social impact assessment is prepared as part of the environmental and social assessment, it will include the following:

1. Executive Summary
2. Legal and Institutional Framework
3. Project Description
4. Baseline Data
5. Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts
6. Mitigation Measures

7. Analysis of Alternatives
8. Design Measures
9. Key Measures and Actions for the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

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**Annex 6: Stakeholder consultation****STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCING**

**Venue: Ministry of Youth and Sports,  
SKD Sports Complex, Montserrado County, Liberia**

**Date: November 10, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting held at SKD fulfils a requirement that obligates the PMT to solicit the views of stakeholders relative to the expansion of the REALISE project through additional financing (AF). The focus of the meeting centered on activities under the proposed AF as well as the associated socio-economic and environmental impacts that these activities might have on the environment.

Despite their enormous daily engagements, stakeholders from diverse ministries and agencies were available to meet with the team and provide the needed cooperation to aid the design of the AF. The consultation brought together various stakeholders including the Deputy Minister for Administration at Public Works, Assistant Minister Aid Management Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Program Manager, Ministry of Agriculture, etc.

The meeting commenced at about 10:30am with self-introduction and an overview of the project activities was provided by Minister D. Zeogar Wilson, Minister of Youth and Sports. Following the opening discussions, Mr. Jesse H. Bengu, project coordinator, presented the current state of the parent project and emphasized the rationale for AF. He however provided a summary of the new components to be added, the anticipated geographic coverage (scope), as well as the potential E&S risks associated with these activities. The new ministries/agencies to be added to the list of the project steering committee members were also disclosed. Ensuing his briefing, many of the participants appreciated the PMT for convening such a consultative meeting and expressed the significance of holding these meetings.

Like many other consultations of this kind, the PMT had an opened engagement with the participating stakeholders and welcome the views of everyone in attendance. Finally, the team solicited questions, recommendations, and other issues of concern from the stakeholders. While there were some positive responses, a major concern was expressed about the PMT's plan for waste management during the implementation of the labor-intensive public works (LIPW) and community livelihood and agriculture support (CLAS) components.

In view of the above, the stakeholders in a separate statement voiced out their concerns with respect to many socio-economic and environmental issues which are ways in which the project might impact the targeted beneficiary counties. Below are some comments made by the stakeholders:

- 
1. Develop a robust strategy for waste management during project implementation
  2. Community based enterprises (CBEs) could be a game changer during project implementation. Supporting CBEs as project beneficiaries could enhance support to vulnerable households while promoting good waste management practice during project rollout.
  3. As a means of sustainability, support implementing entities to improve their websites for project information dissemination instead of developing a standalone website that might not be managed after the project faces out.

These were several other issues highlighted by the stakeholders. At the conclusion of the meeting, Min. Wilson thanked the participants and promised that their recommendations will form part of the project design.

Figure 6: Pictorial from stakeholder consultation



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**STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCING**

**Venue: Boulevard Palace,  
13<sup>th</sup> Sinkor, Tubman Avenue, Monrovia Liberia  
Date: November 14, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting held at Boulevard Palace was a continuation of the stakeholder's consultation for additional financing (AF). The focus of the meeting centered on activities under the proposed AF as well as the associated socio-economic and environmental impacts that these activities might have on the environment.

The meeting brought together civil society actors, disable organizations, youth groups and key government stakeholders to discuss the implementation status of the parent project and the urgency for additional financing given the many economic challenges confronting the informal sector in Liberia.

The meeting commenced at about 11:00am with self-introduction and an overview of the project activities was provided by Minister D. Zeogar Wilson, Minister of Youth and Sports. Following the opening discussions, Mr. Jesse H. Bengu, project coordinator, delivered a PowerPoint presentation of the state of the parent project and emphasized the rationale for AF. He however provided a summary of the new activities to be financed as well as the potential E&S risks associated with these activities. The new ministries/agencies to be added to the list of the project steering committee members were also disclosed. Ensuing his briefing, many of the participants shared their experiences on ongoing project implementation at their various institutions, highlighting lessons learnt and progress to date.

Like many other consultations of this kind, the PMT had an opened engagement with the participating stakeholders and welcome the views of everyone in attendance. Finally, the team solicited questions, recommendations, and other issues of concern from the stakeholders. While there were some positive responses, a major concern was expressed about the inclusion of people with disability and vulnerable groups as beneficiaries during project implementation.

In view of the above, the stakeholders in a separate statement voiced out their concerns with respect to many socio-economic and environmental issues which are ways in which the project might impact the targeted beneficiary counties. Below are some comments made by the stakeholders:

4. Ensure the inclusion of people with disability and vulnerable groups as beneficiaries during project implementation
5. Childcare should be given priority as a means of supporting women's participation in project activities

- 
6. Develop a robust monitoring strategy to limit the risk of political interference as the country moves towards national elections in 2023
  7. Promote climate change adaptation by supporting climate smart agricultural activities
- These were several other key issues highlighted by the stakeholders. At the conclusion of the meeting, Min. Wilson thanked the participants and promised that their recommendations will form part of the project design.

Figure 7: Pictorial from stakeholder consultation



MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS  
SAMUEL K. DOE SPORTS COMPLEX  
PAYNESVILLE, LIBERIA

YOUTH SECTOR STEERING COMMITTEE (SSC) MEETING Attendance Log  
MONDAY, November 14, 2022

No.	Name	Institution	Position	Email Address	Phone Number	Signature
1	Jesse Bengu	MYS	Project Coordinator	jbengu@gmail.com	088069690 0886537125	
2	Mohamm. Nassir	LACE	Deputy Project Coordinator	conradmohamm-nassir2002@yahoo.com		
3	Emmanuel L. Carto	REALISE/MYS	M&E Officer	elawenkarto@yahoo.com	088653427	
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7	Dwight Sengbeh	MOS	Administrative Assistant	dswtengbeh1986@gmail.com	077752204	
8	May D. Commy	USAID Youth Advocate	DC of	maydcommy@usaid.gov	0986558726	
9	Sabri Tamba	World Bank	Social Protection Specialist	Sabri@worldbank.org	088694115	
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MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS  
SAMUEL K. DOE SPORTS COMPLEX  
PAYNESVILLE, LIBERIA

YOUTH SECTOR STEERING COMMITTEE ~~(MYS)~~ MEETING Attendance Log  
MONDAY, November 14, 2022

No.	Name	Institution	Position	Email Address	Phone Number	Signature
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20	Banica S. Elliott	FLY	President	banicaelliott.be@gmail.com	0776593913	
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22	Lydia ms Roberts	BRAC	Executive Assistant	lydia.roberts@brac.net	0776806560	
23	Wilbert F. Smith Jr	LISGIS	ATG. DG	wilbertsmith@yahoo.com	077866644	

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