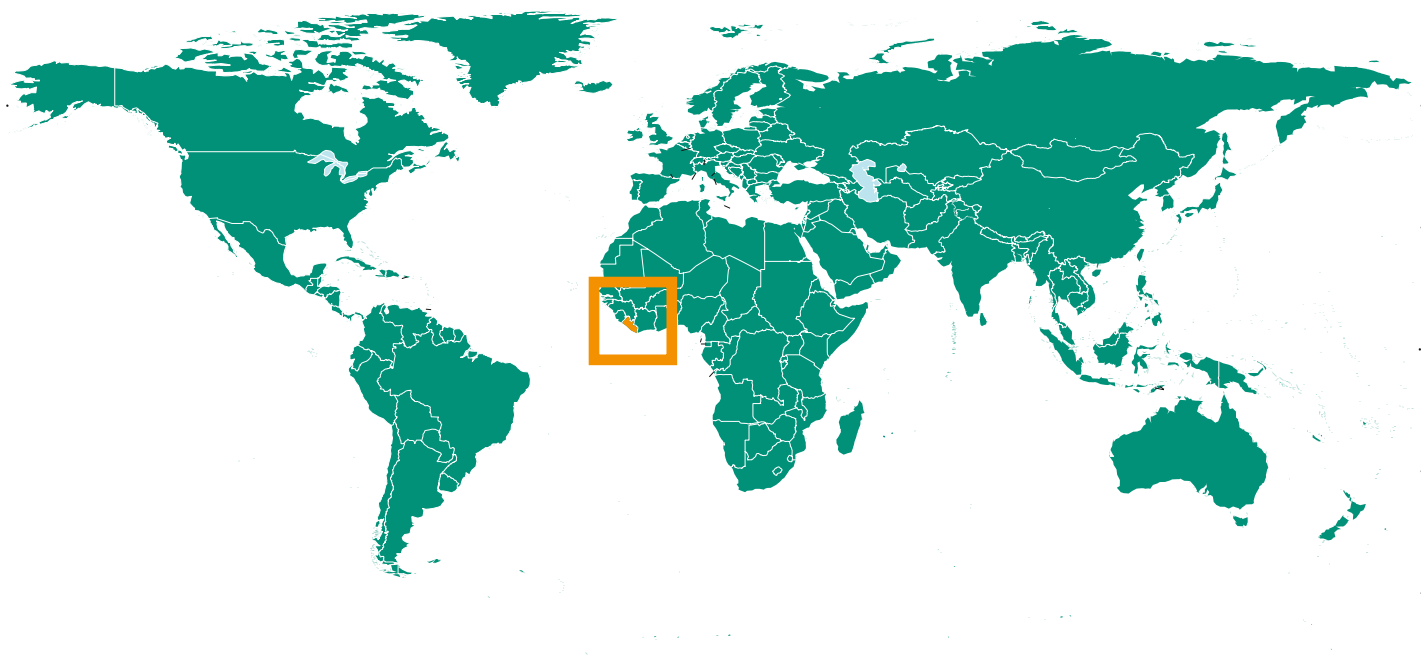


COUNTRY  
PROGRAMME  
DOCUMENT  
2008 - 2009

# LIBERIA





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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SITUATION ANALYSIS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>National urban policy context</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Focus area 1:</b> Advocacy, monitoring and partnerships	7
<b>Focus area 2:</b> Participatory urban planning, management and governance	8
<b>Focus area 3:</b> Pro-poor land and housing	10
<b>Focus area 4:</b> Environmentally sound basic urban infrastructure and services	11
<b>Urban sector capacity development needs</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>RECENT AND ON-GOING WORK</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>UN-HABITAT</b>	<b>13</b>
Partners	14
<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>15</b>
National development goals and priorities	15
UN-HABITAT's proposed strategy for the sector	16
Programme objectives	17
Identified sector priorities	18
<b>IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<b>19</b>
Key principles	19
Information	19
<b>PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK</b>	<b>20</b>
Results/resources by thematic component	20
Required budget	23
<b>ACRONYMS</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>28</b>

## FOREWORDS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In April 2007, the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT approved our 2008-2013 Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan. This plan seeks to promote the alignment of UN-HABITAT normative and operational activities at country level.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents are tangible components of this Plan, as well as a genuine endeavour by UN-HABITAT to better coordinate its activities in a consultative and inclusive way involving UN-HABITAT's in-country focal points, UN-HABITAT Programme Managers, national governments, UN country teams, sister-UN agencies, development partners and all divisions of our Agency. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents are strategic tools meant to guide all UN-HABITAT activities over a two-year period. A major dimension of the UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents is to advocate UN-HABITAT's mandate and address the urban challenges facing developing countries.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents identify national urban development goals and priorities including shelter, urban governance, access to basic services and credit. Important cross cutting issues such as the environment, gender, response to disasters, and vulnerability reduction are also addressed. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents focus on UN-HABITAT country programming. They serve as

a work plan for UN-HABITAT Programme Managers and a reference tool for national and local actors involved in sustainable urban development. According to the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Action Plan adopted by the UN-HABITAT Committee of Permanent Representatives on 6 December 2007, twenty UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents were completed in 2008, including the One-UN Pilot countries where UN-HABITAT is active.

In line with the UN reform process, the UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents seek to strengthen the role of the UN and to demonstrate its commitment. I wish to thank our UN-HABITAT Programme Managers for their input and dedication and for compiling these UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents under guidance of the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division and with the support of all branches and programmes of the Agency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anna K. Tibaijuka'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anna K. Tibaijuka

Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

## MINISTER



Liberia's national recovery, development processes and programs are confronted with many challenges. Among these include weak urban governance, lack of decentralization policies and strategies, poor land administration and management, lack of national urban policy

framework and regional planning, housing and shelter delivery policies, rapid pace of urbanization, increased urban poverty and inadequate minimum basic social services are serious challenges that need to be addressed. These challenges and their attendant spillovers now lead to the urgency of addressing the mandates of the Habitat Agenda and the UN-HABITAT Medium Term Strategic Implementation Plan (MTSIP) in as far as these two instruments will impact the future trends of human settlements in Liberia.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) have informed the Liberia UN-HABITAT Country Program Document. Both documents have identified the national vision, priorities, strategies, have set the development agenda, and defined key project interventions including supportive and complementary interventions that deal with achieving the objectives of the HABITAT Agenda in Liberia.

Indeed, this first Liberia HABITAT Country Program Document is not only necessary; but, also timely. The document comes at a time of the launch of Liberia's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) - 2008-2011. Issues of the Habitat Agenda are underscored in the PRS. The program outlined in this UN-HABITAT are direct project components and abstractions of the PRS and their implementation will require political will of the Government and support of Liberia's international partners and the mobilization of resources to achieve the objectives. These objectives are buttressed by the aspirations of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to improve the living conditions and standards of Liberians.

Minister Amara M. Konneh

Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

### NATIONAL URBAN POLICY CONTEXT

Liberia has a population of approximately 3.73 million inhabitants, with an 'urban' population of about 2.21 million and an urban population growth rate per year of 5.65 percent. Settlements with more than 2000 inhabitants are considered 'urban' settlements. This suggests that over 50 percent of the population now live in dispersed urban settlements pointing to rapid urban population growth, migration and a shift in urbanisation trends from rural to 'urban', and from 'urban' to urban. Moreover, urban definitions, functional criteria, classifications and characteristics of human settlements in Liberia appear to reveal a wide range of weaknesses in the management of urban areas, such as in the following various sectors: urban governance, urban policy and project formulation, urban management, administration and finance. Existing policies, regulatory and legal frameworks and instruments for human settlements and urban development issues are fragmented, distributed among poorly coordinated ministries and agencies.

Significant urban problems have emerged as a result of this rapid urbanisation. More than 80 percent of housing stock has been either destroyed during the years of conflict and/or are in various states of disrepair. Other problems include a multiplicity of urban settlements in the hierarchy of human settlements (hierarchy of settlements means classifications of categories of settlements from lowest to highest), weak urban policy and governance (administration and management) structures and environments, the lack of effective decentralisation policies and strategies, weak human settlements planning, no national land and housing policies and shelter delivery strategies and in-adequate urban finance. Moreover, slums are mushrooming and no slum upgrading interventions are being undertaken. More than 1.4 million inhabitants live on less than USD0.50 cents per day. Widespread urban poverty has a visible gender feature. Unemployment has affected about 84 percent of the work force. There are pressures on the poor. Inadequate urban infrastructures need attention and there are weak national and local capacities to deliver basic public services. Solid waste management is uncontrolled reflecting a lack of official dumpsites, and uncontrolled and irregular garbage collection and disposal.

Poverty, congestion and overcrowding are impacting on the nation's health: leading to a rapid increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and an increase in the levels of crime.

Life expectancy is a mere 47 years, malnutrition is prevalent, and vulnerability, especially among women, girls, the elderly and the disabled, are particularly visible. There are not enough resources to solve Liberia's problems. The level of resources available to solve Liberia's urban problems are mostly unavailable, inadequate or misdirected, and interventions so far have been unsustainable. In effect, there are critical gaps in Liberia's human settlement and urban policies, and they have been virtually powerless to stem the tide of the rapid and haphazard sprawl of urban settlements. Urban policy and governance function in line with a highly centralised government structure that has poor or nonexistent links between macro-economic and spatial planning policies.

Economic growth and urbanisation are two interactive components requiring interactive policy responses. Government needs to undertake immediate action to plan long term policies and strategic measures and interventions to manage its urbanisation challenge. It needs to establish the appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and urban management

#### STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

##### Urbanisation (2008)

- Total Population: 3.9 m
- Urban Population: 2.3 m (60%)

##### Annual population growth rates(2005-2010)

- National: 4.50%
- Urban: 5.65%

##### Population of major cities (2008)

- Monrovia: 1 m

*Source: UN DESA*

##### Slum indicators

- Slum to Urban Population: 56%

##### % urban population with access to:

- Urban Population with access to safe water: 98%
- Urban Population with access to improved sanitation: 45%

*Source: UN-HABITAT, 2001*



structures. It needs to address urban financing issues and the capacities of local government. It needs proper human settlements planning, legislation of security of tenure, proper housing and shelter delivery policies and strategies, accelerate delivery of basic services, provision of local economic development possibilities, strengthening of the institutional framework for urban administration and management and the development of a national land and housing policy.

Unregulated urbanisation and development by private capital is not easily amended by strategic planning and policy-making. These structural challenges inhibit innovative planning policies and restrict the instruments to coordinate urban development. A profound re-conceptualisation of the role of the urban sector is the most likely solution – one that highlights the broader framework of development aspirations. Premised on the government's objectives to decentralise - underpinned by UN-HABITAT's Good Urban Governance and Security of Tenure Campaigns and complemented by the poverty reduction objectives of the government and its partners - this re-conceptualisation could have an immense impact on the nature of urban and regional development planning, as well as on institutional and governance structures and the systems that regulate them.

Part one of the Liberia HCPD is divided into four of the five mutually reinforcing focus areas of UN-HABITAT's Medium-Term Strategic Institutional Plan for 2008-2013, as approved by the Governing Council in 2007.

## FOCUS AREA 1: ADVOCACY, MONITORING AND PARTNERSHIPS

### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Liberian government and its partners have realised the daunting nature of the development and capacity building challenges it faces and they are committed to transforming the public sector including its various institutions to support the private sector's role in the country's economic recovery. Efforts are already underway in this regard. The government, with the assistance of the UN and other international partners, is supporting and complementing ongoing initiatives in the development of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Consequently, a number of public sector reform measures have been taken including institutional restructuring and strengthening. These reforms include, governance reforms and public sector capacity building and training, rebuilding the public and private sectors to improve knowledge and develop skills; addressing corruption; decentralisation of

political governance and basic social service delivery; strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights; conflict policy formulation, implementation and management; land and property rights administration and management; strengthening economic and social policy management; establishing a reliable data base; addressing gender inequities; strengthening environmental rules and regulations; involving broader participation in the governance process and enhancing youth development and involvement in the development process.

The key areas that UN-HABITAT can intervene if resources are made available are in the areas of decentralisation, urban and regional development, formulation of housing policies, land administration and management, urban governance and capacity building of local governments, water and sanitation provision and establishing an urban data base.

## VULNERABILITY REDUCTION

The 2006 Global Human Development Report placed Liberia at the bottom of a list of countries with the lowest human development indices. In 2005, Liberia's human development index was 0.319 far below the 0.515 for sub-Saharan Africa in 2003. Years of conflict have devastated the social infrastructure, destroyed or seriously weakened capacities and eroded pre-war gains made in improving living conditions. The Poverty Profile Study indicates that about 80 percent of the population suffers from income poverty, living below the universally established poverty line of USD1 per day. Poor households live on USD11.32 per month to feed an average of six persons - meaning, that vulnerable urban households live on less than USD.50 cents per day, unable to meet their daily nutritional needs or to educate their children. In urban areas, 75 percent of households are poor, while 40 percent live in extreme poverty. In Monrovia, about 50 percent still live below the poverty line, while 22 percent live in severe poverty. Poor urban residents face long periods of hunger, lack safe drinking water, poor or no sanitation facilities, limited or no access to health and education and other basic services. Additionally, the Nutrition Survey further underscored that the nutritional status of the poor is extremely low especially among mothers and girls living in urban areas. In this regard, any policy should focus on the extent of the poverty and the food insecurity in Liberia.

The economy is weak but slowly recovering. A weak economy has contributed to income poverty, to a lack of capacity, to exclusion, marginalization and the lack of a voice among the poor. The UNDAF will assess the magnitude of the vulnerability of the

poor, help strengthen the national management and implementation frameworks and develop capacities for pro-poor policies. It hopes to increase access to employment and sustainable livelihoods opportunities, especially for vulnerable groups and to improve household food security. Under the Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy Pillar 2, Revitalising the Economy, government will undertake to design appropriate policies and build the requisite economic management capacities to revitalise the economy. The programme will address skills training, and build capacities of the informal sector with a special focus on women, improve urban services and local economic development through labour intensive public works, boost the small and medium enterprise sectors, decentralise community reconstruction efforts, improve access to finance and improve access to land. In essence, incorporating the needs of the vulnerable and undertaking targeted interventions as part of the process of macro-economic policy reform.

## FOCUS AREA 2: PARTICIPATORY URBAN PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Liberia has a highly centralised government. Limited decentralisation (de-concentration and delegation) to local authorities does exist. The Local Government Law stipulates that local municipalities have the power to elect mayors and council members, make laws and promulgate ordinances, levy fines and taxes and hold real properties, sue and be sued in a court of law. However, there is no decentralisation policy. Authority-dependent relationships and interference in local decision making by central government functionaries characterises the governance of human settlements in Liberia.

The Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy and the UNDAF have both mentioned that relative progress is being made in promoting democracy and good governance. Decentralisation and good governance are the tools recognised to reduce poverty. Consequently, both instruments have reinforced their commitment to good governance as a key strategy for national recovery and development with the objectives of enhancing transparency and accountability in the public sector and thus lending support to private sector initiatives.

Resources are scarce to support the multiplicity of local government authorities. Therefore, interventions



should include a redefinition and refocusing of mandates, structures and functions of public sector institutions. The focus should be on urban policy and project interventions, constitutional and judicial reform, definitions of local government, building capacities of local and national public authorities and institutions, conflict management, reducing corruption, enhancing information management and formulation of appropriate policies for the economy. Good governance encourages the participation of local populations in the decision-making process that affects their welfare and wellbeing. To improve the wellbeing of the population the government has announced that it will build local housing estates for the elderly and finance urban infrastructure development.

#### URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The Local Government Law vests certain powers in local governments. Every city is created by an Act of National Legislature which also vests powers in institutions established to manage the affairs of urban

centres. The planning machinery of Liberia provides for each Ministry/Agency of government to develop its own plan which is coordinated by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs responsible for the formulation of a national plan. This overlapping of shared responsibilities has created problems. Each Ministry, Agency, Public Corporation of government has mandates, but their efforts are poorly coordinated and integrated. For example, the Ministry of Public Works is responsible for roads and civic construction works, maintenance, and administers the 1957 Zoning Laws. The Ministry of Internal Affairs supervises the offices of all City Mayors, except Monrovia, and has an Urban Planning Unit, but it is not active. The Monrovia City Corporation has an urban planning unit which lacks resources and technical capacity. The Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs has a Regional Planning Department but no regional development policy. Land surveying is handled by the Ministry of Land and Mines, while the National Housing Authority is mandated to construct public housing and perform urban planning tasks. The Liberia Water and Sewerage Corporation is responsible for urban water supply; the



Liberia Electricity Corporation for electricity supply. The University of Liberia has a Regional Science Graduate School which teaches urban planning but lacks teaching staff, logistics and material support.

There are multifaceted dimensions to the capacity building requirements to improve urban planning and management and sustain urban life in Liberia. These include, but are not limited to the following: capacities in urban governance and finance, urban/town and city planning, land use planning, environmental engineering, waste management, land administration and management, national urban and regional development policies. Building the capacities of local authorities in the areas of planning, land use planning, environmental engineering and waste management among others can improve the quality of urban life. Additional support is also needed to improve access to land, low cost building materials and basic services for the urban poor by formulating a national housing policy and a water and sanitation policy.

## LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

The dual land tenure system (statutory laws and traditional land practices) is controversial. The question is whether land tenure should come under a single tenure system or whether the dual system should be maintained with constitutional and legal provisions to protect the traditional land tenure system from abuse and allow for greater private ownership and minimise excessive long term holdings of productive large land areas? Insecurity of land tenure is pervasive in urban areas. The land information and records systems have been compromised, thereby, exacerbating the problems of land acquisition and legal security of tenure. The absence of legal mechanisms for informal negotiation and arbitration and the lack of institutional capacity to decisively resolve land conflicts within, but especially across communities in a way that is perceived as fair can generate a potential for land conflicts to fester and eventually escalate into violent strife. Improving land and property rights and security of tenure could play a vital role in promoting rural development and accelerating the growth of the national economy.

All land in Liberia is held under the Eminent Domain Law. Liberia has a low man to land ratio. However, population distribution between urban and rural areas reveals that pressures are increasing in urban areas due to higher population densities. Land problems are emerging as a matter of urgency. Most land is owned by private individuals including tribal holdings. The urbanisation process has been unregulated, haphazard and chaotic resulting in the increase

in demand for land, shelter and delivery of basic services. The demand for land is resulting in the rapid peripheral growth of slums and squatter settlements. Consequently, land administration and management issues are now impacting on the peace. As a result, there is an urgent and institutional challenge to strengthen security of tenure issues.

The President underscored in her Inaugural Address the need for land reform as one of the top priorities in promoting economic growth and accelerating poverty reduction. Land reforms will improve the functioning of land markets. A comprehensive national land policy will address property rights to land and security of tenure, as well as the issue of access to land and the functioning and impact of markets and non-market channels. The land policy can deliver an affordable supply of land, especially for the urban poor, provide a framework for the orderly supply of land within a strategic planning framework, retain private use consistent with public needs and interests and offer long term investment stability without the negative impacts of speculation, monitor the effects of land distribution on the marginalised and poor, streamline land administration and management as part of the government's immediate strategy to ensure economic growth and enhance urban development; the urgent need to develop a national land and housing policy and a Land Act.

## FOCUS AREA 3: PRO-POOR LAND AND HOUSING

### HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Liberian housing crisis is a reflection of weak policies which predate the civil war that resulted in the destruction of about 80 percent of the housing stock. The war created and exposed the inadequacies of stock but also of housing quality and standards. The shortage of housing and shelter is more acute in the urban areas where congestion and overcrowding is visible. The National Housing Authority and the National Housing and Savings Bank were established by government in recognition of Liberia's housing problems. Several public housing estates were established. However, only the National Housing Authority is functioning. The absence of a national housing policy as well as appropriate institutional arrangements represents a severe institutional weakness in Liberia.



According to the 1998 Housing Indicator Survey, the number of households with precarious land tenure was 43 percent for Monrovia and its peri-urban areas. Government's response was inadequate, providing only 11.7 percent of housing compared to 70 percent by the informal sector and 18.3 percent by the formal sector. The government has plans to construct additional low cost housing estates in major cities as well to build homes for the elderly, but it will have to repossess land. The majority of the urban housing stock is provided by the private sector on a monthly rental, annual or quarterly lease basis or under long-term lease agreements. There is a high demand for housing, especially low cost housing. Commercial Banks are engaged in investments in the housing sector and credit unions provide housing loans to their members to improve homes.

Urban development is chaotic, ad-hoc and unregulated. There is no urban development policy to guide spatial growth and development. Many government agencies are engaged in environmental issues. Coordination between these institutions is weak.

Many urban homes use pit latrines, hand pumps and open wells. Only a few have flush toilets and pipe borne water supply. In the slums, where the urban poor suffer the greatest environmental hazards

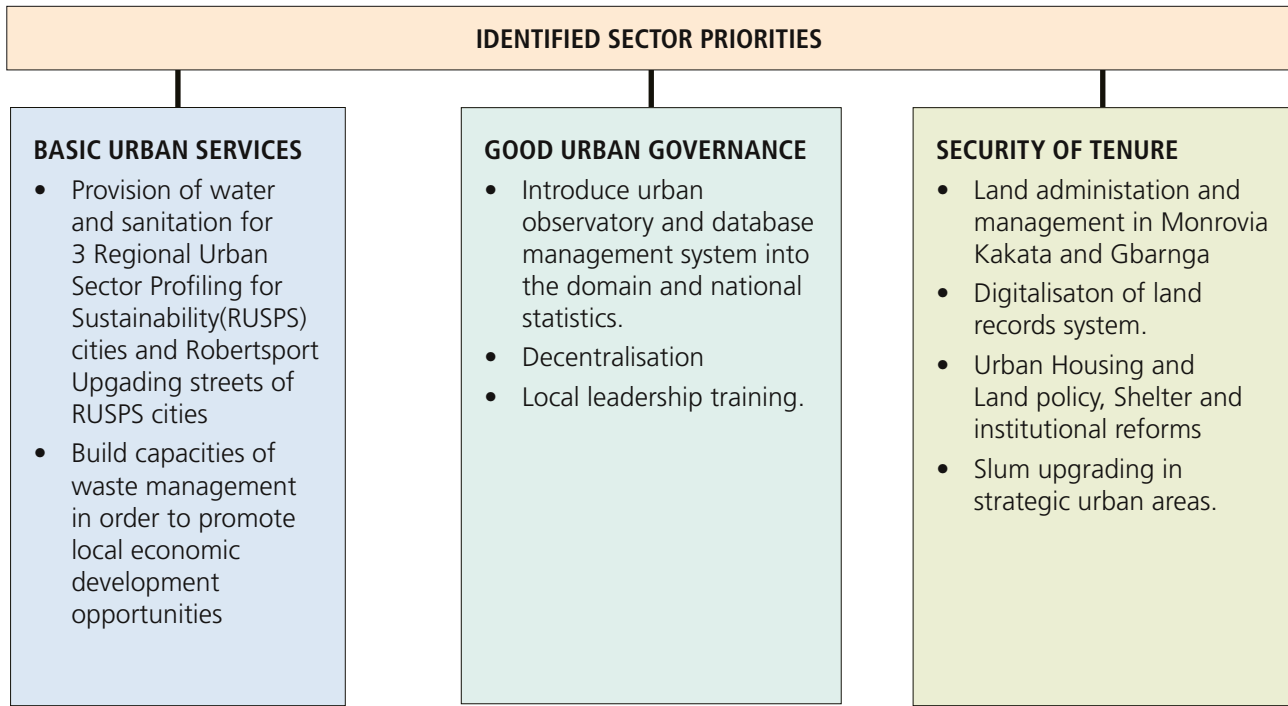
ranging from over crowding/congestion, poor waste disposal, lack of safe drinking water, pollution and various ailments, no identifiable institution takes responsibility for the slums. While various advocacy and awareness campaigns have been undertaken, these efforts need to be coordinated, strengthened and sustained.

## FOCUS AREA 4: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND BASIC URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

### SHELTER AND BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

Prior to the civil war, the Liberian government undertook a slum up-grading programme that resulted in the emergence of urban satellite towns. The sustainable resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons has been a pre-requisite for Liberia's economic recovery and consolidation of peace. Accelerating economic growth and development has made the delivery of shelter and basic services priorities of the Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy and the UNDAF. The majority of the population has no access to affordable shelter, safe drinking water, health, education, electricity, sewerage (use pit latrines), and waste and garbage disposal systems. Access rates to shelter and basic services, especially for the poor and the vulnerable, are very poor. This is reflected in the statistical indices of the country i.e. high maternal and infant mortality rates, high incidence of malaria and water borne diseases, acute respiratory infections, high urban poverty, illiteracy and lower life expectancy prior to the war, among others.\* Additionally, the slums of Liberia have had no upgrading interventions in 25 years; though ad-hoc interventions by government, local and international institutions have been undertaken. Other factors impact shelter delivery including high costs and unregulated use of urban land, lack of urban and regional development policies, no sustained slum upgrading interventions, weak enforcement of the existing zoning laws, high cost of construction materials and a lack of an appropriate and conducive environment policy and institutional framework. Private sector provision of shelter and basic services is higher than that of the public sector. Due to the high costs, the urban poor attend public facilities where the services are very poor. The government recognises the situation and hopes to accelerate the delivery of basic services and low cost housing estates and homes for the elderly in urban centres.

## URBAN SECTOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS



The table above organizes the sub-sectoral priorities of the Liberia HCPD: Water and Sanitation, Governance, and the Vulnerable and Excluded. Proposed interventions to each sub-section are presented in the context of broader development goals highlighted by iPRSP, UNDAF and the Medium Term Development Plan.

## RECENT AND ON-GOING WORK

The following table gives an introduction to current UN-HABITAT projects in Liberia. The matrix illustrates details of donors, budgets and outlines the main activities and objectives of each programme.

### UN-HABITAT

Project Title	Time Frame	Budget (USD)	Funding Partner (s)	Partner(s)	Main Activities / Outputs
Rapid Urban Sector Profiling for Sustainability	2005 - present	10,000,000	EU	Ministries of Planning and Economic Affairs, Internal Affairs and Local Officials of the three RUSPS Cities, Public Works, Information, Gender, Health and Social Welfare, Agriculture, and Transport. Environmental Protection Agency, University of Liberia and Monrovia City Corporation	To contribute to urban poverty reduction at local, national and regional levels in Africa and Arab States.
Rural Housing Programme	1999 - 2002	2,000,000	UNDP	UNDP, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, Public Works, Rural Development and the National Housing Authority,	Built capacities at the national and local levels to enable local community members to be the prime movers of the national reconstruction process.
Training of former combatants, community members, IDPs, youths and returnees in building skills and trades	2004 - 2007	1,700,000	UNDP Trust Fund, USAID, EU, SIDA, DFID, Norway, Ireland,	UNDP, UNMIL, NCDDRR, Local NGOs, National Habitat Commission, Ministry of Education	Contributed to the consolidation of peace and the sustainable reintegration of ex-combatants into productive and normal social life

## PARTNERS

### Background

The international multilateral and bilateral partners and the International Non Governmental Organizations have provided support and technical assistance through direct and harmonised mechanisms/county support team strategy and joint implementation mechanisms. Broadly, the interventions have focused on political stabilization, economic management (Governance Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP), and socio-economic recovery of the sectors of the economy. The key areas are:

**Security:** United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United States Government are supporting security provision, securing the peace and contributing to security sector reforms. Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of combatants is supported by the United States of America, the European Union, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Ireland, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

**Governance:** The UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, USAID, ADB, the EU, and the International Labour Organisation along with a host of international non-governmental organisations through bilateral and humanitarian sources, are supporting governance and the rule of law, human rights protection and security, gender issues, including strategic policy support, training of local government authorities, elections, land and property rights issues.

Basic Infrastructure and Services: UNDP, UNICEF, EU, WORLD BANK, USAID and UNMIL are engaged in community based recovery and infrastructural rehabilitation projects, such as the provision and restoration of basic services i.e. electricity and water and sanitation, health and education and the environment; while the Chinese and the American Governments are engaged in the enhancement of the role of the private sector, investments and the restoration of basic infrastructure such as public buildings. The World Bank is supporting road rehabilitation and urban works and has informally expressed interest to partner with UN-HABITAT in water sector interventions in three secondary cities.

**Food Security:** The FAO, World Bank and WFP and INGOs support agriculture, forestry and food security. Information Management: UNDP, IMF, USAID and INGO's are involved in human development,

## STRATEGY



### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy , 2008-2011, and the UNDAF, 2008-2011 developed a national vision including their respective interventions in the national context. The national development priorities are governance and rule of law, capacity development and building, rehabilitation and delivery of basic services (water and sanitation, health and education), land and property rights within the contexts of conflict management, gender disparities, economic revitalisation, vulnerability reduction and improving the national data base at central and local levels.

The Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper identified a number of settlements issues for intervention. The interventions proposed are for the review of the Act creating the City of Monrovia and the zoning law, developing a national housing policy, the training, knowledge and skills building capacities of local authorities, including Monrovia City in governance and service delivery, establishing a land commission and resolving land and property issues, enhancing the capacities of small micro-enterprises with a focus on

women, developing economic profiles for fourteen counties, implementing the national youth policies and strategies and developing regional profiles for local areas. On the other hand, the UNDAF has taken conflict and peace building and consolidation approaches to build capacities and infrastructure for the settlement of land disputes, streamlining the Goals in local and national planning processes, building capacities in participatory planning and monitoring and evaluation, support vulnerability assessment, decentralise government planning, administration, budgeting and service delivery capacities to the county level and building capacities of county and district level administrations. It hopes to support youth leaders to plan and implement and monitor development. The Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy with its four pillars and the UNDAF Outcomes have been aligned to produce a national policy and strategic framework for poverty reduction. Human settlements and urban sector issues in the current programming instruments are explicitly covered as response measures to overall national development. Land issues are seen as important in poverty reduction, governance, economic growth and environmental

sustainability. These national visions and development agendas provide collective responses to national priorities and needs within the context of the Goals. National economic policies and programmes will be implemented to support equitable, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development and UNDAF# 3 by 2011 seeks to promote democratic, accountable and transparent government, more participatory and inclusive approaches to government, and respect for human rights standards.

## UN-HABITAT'S PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR THE SECTOR

The urban system in Liberia requires immediate attention. Given that resources are scarce, a close collaboration with the UNSYSTEM and partners, UN joint planning, programming and assessments and County Support Team strategy will be the key to focusing on specific areas of intervention. UN-HABITAT will endeavour to mobilise resources and will be prepared undertake interventions. Decentralisation strengthens local democracy and institutions, empowers citizens and provides local governments with sufficient authority, human and financial resources and transform them into participatory institutions responsible and accountable to citizens.

Central government takes overall responsibility for establishing an effective decentralisation framework based on recognised principles of subsidiary relationships. Moreover, a wide range of capacity development and building interventions (direct and indirect training of trainers) and supportive strategies such as delivery of tool kits will improve skills and knowledge and empower local authorities and communities in their urban service delivery activities and institutionalise communications and coordinating strategies. Urban centres are serviced by integrated planning and management and will require a consultative and participatory process and "learning by decision making" approaches at appropriate levels.

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Service and the National Information Management Center will be used to develop and integrate urban indicators into the national statistical domain and with the Liberia Institute of Public Administration in training people and capacity building ventures with line ministries and local authorities.

There is a need to improve security of tenure, spatial planning and land use. In this regard, surveys, assessments of existing land laws, regulations and practices, and linking the housing and shelter delivery strategies to address poverty reduction will be implemented. Spatial planning instruments with agreed socio-economic guidelines to facilitate the formulation of an integrated land and housing policy will be adopted with the view to regularising land tenure through a process of consultations and city focused strategies. Promoting local economic development through micro- credit and waste management will be implemented.





UN-HABITAT'S specialised knowledge and experience, combined partnerships with UN Technical Agencies, international and local consultants, international and local non-governmental organisations and technicians within their respective public sector agencies will be utilised. Political will, local and institutional partnerships and commitments at national and local levels will be critical.

## PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Liberia UN-HABITAT Country Programme are as follows:

- (i) To improve the living conditions of a war affected population and to re-integrate them into improved human settlements
- (ii) Develop urban indicators and build local capacities to collect, collate, analyse and monitor urban indicators and establish an urban information and data base (urban observatory)
- (iii) Improve access to basic services for the urban poor, especially for women, children, the elderly and the disabled

- (iv) Promote local economic development
- (v) Develop public policies on solid waste management and water and sanitation;
- (vi) Build capacities of national and local municipal authorities in leadership and management skills and women's role in participatory planning and decision making and develop tool kits and manuals, restructure, train and strengthen local municipal planning units;
- (vii) Support the land reform process, build capacities of national and local authorities' in land management and administration; develop a national housing policy and shelter delivery implementation strategies and plan; undertake studies and propose legal and institutional reforms in the housing sector and build institutional capacities.

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

The table presents the main capacity development needs for the following components: Governance, Urban planning and Management and Housing and the Environment. As these are cross-cutting components, they highlight capacity development priorities for all focus areas of the Liberia UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document.

## IDENTIFIED SECTOR PRIORITIES

The following table organises the sub-sectoral priorities of the Liberia UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document: Water and Sanitation, Governance, and the Vulnerable and Excluded. Proposed interventions to each sub-section are presented in the context of broader development goals highlighted by Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy and the UNDAF.

### BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Provision of water and sanitation for 3 Regional Urban Sector Profiling for Sustainability (RUSPS) cities and Robertsport Upgrading streets of RUSPS cities

Build capacities of waste management in order to promote local economic development opportunities

### GOOD URBAN GOVERNANCE

Introduce urban observatory and database management system into the domain and national statistics

- Decentralisation, and effective legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and structures.

- Administrative and management skills and procedures.
- Information management and effective communications and coordination strategies.
- effective enforcement of city ordinances and regulations.
- Improved remunerative conditions.
- Improved vulnerability assessments, operational working manuals, clear mandates.
- Logistical and material support.

### SECURITY OF TENURE

Land administration and management in Monrovia Kakata and Gbarnga

### DIGITALISATION OF LAND RECORDS SYSTEM

Urban Housing and Land policy, Shelter and institutional reforms

Slum upgrading in strategic urban areas.

## IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS



### KEY PRINCIPLES

UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document will be jointly approved and signed between the Government of Liberia and UN-HABITAT; thereby, establishing the legal context of projects. A National Project Steering Committee under the aegis of the National Habitat Committee, chaired by the Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs will serve as the apex national executing body along with UN-HABITAT represented by the Chief Technical Advisor assisted by the HPM. The National Project Steering Committee will be responsible for policy issues and to monitor program implementation and coordination activities and will meet quarterly to review monitoring reports and make decisions regarding subsequently actions. Where applicable, a Local Project Coordination Team will be established under the office of the City Mayor with the County Superintendent, as an ex-officio member, representing the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Representatives from sector ministries/ agencies, NGOs, CSOs, and the private sector will also constitute members of the Coordinating Team.

The CTA will supervise project implementation while the HPM will liaise with and back stop project implementation with the Government. Responsibilities for project design, implementation and finance will be undertaken by UN-HABITAT Headquarters in collaboration with the Project Implementation Unit directly under the supervision of the CTA through UNDP. UN-HABITAT will provide administrative and financial oversight and in consultations with various partners and stakeholders.

### INFORMATION

Programme implementation will generate information for decision making and provide technical support to policy makers, partners and stakeholders. Reliable information and data are crucial to ensuring sound decision making. Therefore timing information and data collection, production, analysis, and dissemination (through the media, workshops and seminars) of information will be prioritized. UN-HABITAT tool kits and training manuals and web-sites will be used.

## PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

The table shows the results framework matrix. The matrix is divided by the three main thematic components that have been used as a framework for analysis throughout Liberia's HCPD. Under each thematic component, specific programmes aligned to national development priorities have been identified. The expected results, key indicators, main partners and the budget for each of the programmes are shown.

### RESULTS/RESOURCES BY THEMATIC COMPONENT

Expected Results	Key Indicators	Main Partners	Resources (USD)
<b>RESULTS/RESOURCES BY THEMATIC COMPONENT</b>			
<b>UNDAF Country Program Outcome number 1.2:</b> Text: Consolidation of national reconciliation and reintegration process with focus on youth empowerment			
<b>Programme component 1 :</b> Reintegration of War affected persons in Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties			
1. War affected population suitably re-integrated into improved human settlements and the number of locals, especially youths trained in building trades and skills with local economic development capacities and access to sustainable livelihoods	1. Living conditions of war affected population significantly improved in terms of human security, health, education income and welfare with improved access to basic services	USAID, UNDP, EU, UK SIDA, Ireland, UNHCR, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Japan	2.9m
2. Conflict resolution mechanisms, tools and instruments in place and functioning	2. Improved human settlements and functioning habitat/ shelter committees with conflict resolution institutions established		
<b>UNDAF Outcome number: 2.1</b> Text: Coordinated and strengthened national management and implementation frameworks and capacities for pro-poor policy planning, analysis and monitoring			
<b>Programme Component 2:</b> Support and integrate urban indicators in national statistics and establish an Urban Observatory			
Urban Observatory established, indicators identified and integrated within the national statistics domain; staffs trained and urban observatory functioning	1. Data and information on urban areas and poverty collected, collated, analysed and published and urban indicators and human settlements monitored	UNDP, IMF, USAID, World Bank, NGOs and CSOs	0.25m
	2. Vulnerability assessments surveys conducted and reports published		
<b>UNDAF Outcome number: 2.2</b> Text: Increased access to productive employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities especially for vulnerable groups			
<b>Programme Component 3:</b> Regional Urban Sector profile for Sustainability Phase II			
Capacity Building and Policy seminars	Identification of capacity gaps in governance, slums, environment and gender		100,000

## RESULTS/RESOURCES BY THEMATIC COMPONENT

## RESULTS/RESOURCES BY THEMATIC COMPONENT

Expected Results	Key Indicators	Main Partners	Resources (USD)
<b>Programme Component 4:</b> Rehabilitation of City Street In RUSPS Cities			
1. Rehabilitation of city streets in Kakata and Gbamga	Increase in numbers of basic services provided, appropriately equipped and being utilized	UNDP, USAID, World Bank, EU, UNHCR, INGOs, ILO, UNMIL, UNEP, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF	1.3m
2. Improved and increased access to basic services by the population			
<b>Table #4: UNDAF Country Program Outcome number 3:</b> Text: Capacity exists for conflict prevention, management and conflict sensitive development at national and local levels			
<b>Programme Component 5:</b> Land Administration and management in 3 cities			
1. Land administration and management system improved	1. Municipal urban planning tools established and are being utilized;	UNDP, UNMIL, USAID, World Bank	5.9m
2. Land disputes institution established and functioning; and increased level of stability in security of land tenure;	2. Land occupancy registration completed and land taxation system put in place and operating;		
<b>Programme Component 6:</b> Digitize and strengthen Land Records and Information System			
1. Improved land administration and management information system installed	1. New land registration and recording centre and systems are established, staffs trained in processing, storage and retrieval of information	UNDP, UNMIL, USAID, World Bank	0.8m
2. Security of Land Tenure Global Campaign initiatives commenced	2. National land consultations and conferences held		

## RESULTS/RESOURCES BY THEMATIC COMPONENT

## RESULTS/RESOURCES BY THEMATIC COMPONENT

Expected Results	Key Indicators	Main Partners	Resources (USD)
Table #5: UNDAF Outcome number 3.1 and 3.2: Texts: Policies, laws, structures and regulatory systems reformed to promote and sustain democratic governance; by 2011 progress towards decentralization with accountable duty bearers, sustained and accelerated			
<b>Programme Component 7:</b> Land and housing policies			
National Housing Policy and shelter delivery strategies and plans are implemented	National Housing Survey conducted, report completed and policy prepared; studies completed and instruments for shelter delivery are installed	UNDP, UNMIL, World Bank, USAID	
<b>Programme Component 8:</b> Decentralisation/national urban and regional development policies			
1. Decentralization policies and strategies are implemented	1. Urban and Regional development policies formulated and implemented	UNDP, UNMIL, World Bank, USAID	
2. De-concentration and delegation of the planning, budgetary, and management functions of urban centres formalize	2. Transfers and levels of resources and budgetary support for urban centres established and functioning		
3. Good Urban Governance Campaign initiatives initiated and established	3. Increase in the numbers of Local communities engaged services delivery		
4. Mayors National Conference held regularly	4. Strategic planning units are functioning Capacities of local government staffs are build		

## REQUIRED BUDGET

### REQUIRED BUDGET

The table reflects the budget for the Liberia HCPD. The budget presents a sum of the programme budgets for the three main thematic components covered in the Country Programme. The table displays funding over a 2 year period and highlights the secured versus the non-secured funding for each programme component presented.

Thematic Areas / Programme Components	Year 1 (USD)	Year 2 (USD)	Secured Funds (USD)	Unsecured Funds (USD)	Total (USD)
<b>National reconciliation and reintegration</b>					
1. Reintegration of War Affected persons in Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties	1,900,000	1,000,000	0	2,900,000	2,900,000
Total National reconciliation and reintegration	1,900,000	1,000,000	0	2,900,000	2,900,000
<b>Pro-poor policy planning, analysis and monitoring</b>					
2. Undertake Urban Indicator Survey and Establish an Urban Observatory	0	200,000	0	200,000	400,000
Total Pro-poor policy planning, analysis and monitoring	0	0	0	0	400,000
<b>Productive employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities</b>					
3. Regional Urban profiling Phase II	20,000	80,000	100,000	0	100,000
<b>Total Productive employment and livelihoods</b>					<b>100,000</b>
Conflict prevention, management and conflict sensitive development					
5. Land administration and Management in three cities	3,000,000	2,900,000	0	5,900,000	5,900,000
Total Conflict prevention	3		0	0	5,900,000
<b>Democratic governance</b>					
7. Land and Housing Policies ¥	4,440,000	0	0	444,000	444,000
8. Decentralization/ National Urban and Regional Development	600,000	0	0	600,000	600,000
Total Democratic governance	1,044,000	0	0	1,044,000	1,044,000
<b>Programme Management</b>					
Total Programme Management	32,736	32,736	65,472	0	65,472
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>7,296,736</b>	<b>5,062,736</b>	<b>165,472</b>	<b>12,194,000</b>	<b>10,300,000</b>

## ACRONYMS

ADB	Africa Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DFID	Department for International Development
EU	European Union
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Disease
HPCD	UN-HABITAT Country Program Document
HPM	UN-HABITAT Program Manager
INGOs	International non governmental organizations
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPRS	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy
LISGIS	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Services
LIPA	Liberia Institute of Public Administration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MLM&E	Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy
MPEA	Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs
MPW	Ministry of Public Works
MTSIP	Medium Term Strategic Implementation Plan
NHA	National Housing Authority
NGOs	Non governmental Organizations
RTCD	Regional and Technical Cooperation Bureau
RUSPS	Rapid Urban Profiling for Sustainability
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
UNDESA	United Nations Division of Economic and Social Affairs
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees



UK	United Kingdom
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Habitat Country Programme Document for Liberia outlines the main objectives and priorities for UN-HABITAT. In collaboration with the Government and other UN Agencies, the overall aim of the UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents is to promote the Habitat Agenda. UN-HABITAT plays an active role in urban development and policy formulation. Through partnerships with various ministries, UN-HABITAT has assisted in identifying key urban issues and areas of support to improve the urban situation in Liberia. Through an analysis of seven key sectors that include: Governance and Institutions, Land administration and management, Shelter and Basic Services delivery, Urban Planning and Management, Housing/ Urban development and environment, Vulnerability reduction and Capacity Development, the Liberia UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document provides an overview of Liberia's national policy context and the intervention areas for government to address urban development challenges.

The multilateral programming instruments presented in the Liberia UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document that help to guide national priorities and the UN system priorities are the Liberia Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the Third UNDAF. Liberia's national development goals and priorities are based on the Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy, the nation's main development policy framework. They support poverty reduction and economic growth. Taking into account the UNDAF and other UN system

activities, the country programme in Liberia is currently formulating a strategy to approach the urban sector through the development of long term development strategies. As a whole, the UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document presents a clear programme document aimed at guiding UN-HABITAT's current and future work in Liberia.



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