

LIBERIA MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (LMPTF)

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Participants attending a community-based participatory planning training in Zorzor (Lofa County), Northern Liberia in September 2019



United Nations
Peacebuilding
Peacebuilding Fund

Executive Summary

The Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund was established in July 2018 by the Government with support from the UN system to address the remaining root causes of fragility in support of the country's efforts to sustain peace and implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the period under review, the Fund had a portfolio of four projects. The *Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative reforms and civic engagement Project* delivered key results including support for the enactment of Domestic Violence Act in August 2019. To address challenges facing the economic and reconciliation and healing, the project joined the Government and other partners to organize a National Economic and Reconciliation Dialogue to address emerging economic and peace and reconciliation challenges. The project also supported a countywide reconciliation dialogues in seven counties in preparation of a national reconciliation policy for Liberia.

The portfolio supported sustaining the peace through established community conflict prevention mechanisms and the empowerment of youth through rural employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The *Sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment* conducted a scoping exercise to map out youth and gender related conflict drivers and peace infrastructures, which helped to plan and respond to drivers of conflict based on empirical data collated in two counties.

Progress was also reported by the *Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia project*, which rolled out psycho-social and skills training activities. 223 beneficiaries underwent psychosocial screening and enrolled in the skills and vocational training. Fifteen social workers and mental health clinicians were trained to provide psychosocial counselling and support services to the target group.

The Joint LMPTF/PBF Secretariat oversaw the daily functioning of the Fund and provided technical and management support to the Steering Committee. It coordinated the convening of the SC on strategic priorities; and programmatic and financial management at the fund level. It also provided oversight and quality assurance for projects under the portfolio; and reporting and other programmatic issues.

1. SDG Achievements

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

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

The first three project are implemented by UN agencies while the last supports the Secretariat's operations. The three substantive projects are aligned to SDGs 1,2,5,8,10,11,16 and 17. Over the reporting period, the projects contributed to the achievement of various results under the different SDG goals.

The *Advancing Reconciliation Project* contributes to SDGs 5, 10 and 16. Towards Goal 5, the project supported advocacy against discrimination and abuse of women, which led to the enactment of a Domestic Violence Law on August 2019 by the Liberia National Legislature. The passage of the law will help to reduce inequality as well as promote peace and social cohesion in response to SDG 16. The project also supported county and national reconciliation dialogues with the aim of sustaining peace. It further provided support to national legal and human rights entities to facilitate a comprehensive law reform process; enactment of laws and review of bills that are human rights compliant; and gender-sensitive legal frameworks which provide safeguards for protection and promotion of a broad spectrum of rights.

Through the *Sustaining Peace and Social Cohesion Project*, the Fund supported the achievement of SDGs 2, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17. The Project worked to ensure inclusion of men and women in promoting peace and social cohesion in six communities of two counties (Lofa and Bong) through conflict prevention mechanisms and sustainable livelihood opportunities, mainly agriculture. It contributed to the creation of jobs and income for target communities through improved technologies to produce rice and vegetables, promoting peace and social cohesion.

The project on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia relates to SDG 1, 2, 10 and 16. To maintain peace and security, the project provides psychosocial and mental health services to restore beneficiaries' dignity through a detoxification process. Majority of the target group were and/or are victims of narcotic drugs and alcohol abuse. Further, different skill sets are availed to beneficiaries for income generation to make them productive and independent.

Fund allocation is not based on specific SDGs as they are cross-cutting. However, most of the portfolio's support relates to SDs 5, 8 and 16.

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

2. Achievements of the Fund

The PBF, through the MPTF Office, provided US\$ 5 million seed funding under its Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF), in 2018, to support the LMPTF portfolio consistent with the government's PAPD and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)³. The funds are channeled through qualified UN agencies to support the Government through three interventions. A fourth project provided start-up capital for establishing the LMPTF and funding

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

² LMPTF Operational guidelines

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

for its Secretariat⁴. Indicator results matrix (Annex-1) captures key outcomes indicator results of the four projects including the secretariat.

Key Results Structured per Outcome

Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement

Under Outcome 1 (Law-making, oversight functions of the Liberian Legislature and Law Reform Commission enhanced to review and align existing laws and bills for effective protection of human rights of all with emphasis on rights of socially marginalized groups), the project strengthened the capacity of relevant legislative committees and CSOs to influence the development and passage of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) bills, which contributed to the enactment of Domestic Violence Act on 14 August 2019.

In Outcome 2 (Transitional justice processes and institutional mechanisms increasingly facilitate the realization of right to truth telling, reparations to achieve national reconciliation and peace), the project supported government efforts for national reconciliation. The Fund supported a National Colloquium organized by the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) to discuss the recommendations of the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report. A communique at the end of the colloquium called for a bill to establish a War and Economic Crimes Court as recommended in the TRC. The Fund also partnered with the Government in the convention of the National Economic and Reconciliation Dialogue (NERD) to address emerging economic and peace and reconciliation challenges, leading to incremental changes to Liberia’s economic and peacebuilding context. For instance, the National Legislature approved the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court following the President’s request for advice. The Court was one of the recommendations of the NERD, and the TRC Report. Through civil society organizations partnering with UN agencies, the Fund facilitated the development of seven county reconciliation action plans from community dialogues to inform the development of a national reconciliation policy for Liberia. Table 1 below shows project progress against some of the key indicators.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results
<p>Indicator: Government is effective in the areas of: Quality of public services, quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressure, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support was provided for the development of specific tailor-made training for members of relevant committees at the Liberia National Legislature, coupled with bilateral engagements to enhance quality law making and public service delivery. • The project leveraged its partnerships with the Law Reform Commission and relevant civil society organizations, including women advocates to reinforce advocacies on quality public service and good governance through the production and sharing of video documentaries on lessons learnt as an incentive to validate the call for quality public service.

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

<p>Target (December 2019): improvement by 1 point on the scale</p>	
<p>Indicator: Number of domestic laws amended and passed that respond to the rights of women and girls and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Target: At least two laws, amended and passed that respond to the rights of women and girls and other vulnerable groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, an advocacy engagement with the country’s national legislature from 19-20 January 2019 influenced existing efforts that led to the passage of the Domestic Violence Bill. The Domestic Violence Act criminalizes various forms of violence against women, men and children; and ensures the protection of the most vulnerable.
<p>Indicator: Number of TRC recommendations implemented by the end of 2020.</p> <p>Target: At least three recommendations from the TRC report will be implemented (reparations through memorials, apology and legal reforms).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A National Colloquium was held and produced a communique which called for a holistic reparation program, launch of an all-inclusive community Palava Hut program, and implementation of other related peace and reconciliation programs. • Construction of memorials as common assets to communities that saw the massacres of innocent victims to address reparations is ongoing. • A bill to establish a War and Economic Crimes Court was submitted to the National Legislature by the Liberia Bar Association, a regulatory arm of lawyers in Liberia. This was in support of one of several recommendations from a National Economic and Reconciliation Dialogue (NERD), supported by the Project, to address emerging economic, and peace and reconciliation challenges.
<p>Indicator: Number of County Reconciliation Action Plans developed by the end of the project</p> <p>Target: Seven</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In support of an inclusive national reconciliation approach, the project also conducted 42 county reconciliation dialogues in 7 counties in the country that resulted to the production of county specific reconciliation action plans to inform the development of a National Policy on national reconciliation.

Table 1: Advancing Reconciliation Project - Progress against key indicators

The Sustaining Peace and Improving Social Cohesion through the Promotion of Rural Employment

Outcome 1 (Young women and men have increased access to local conflict resolution mechanisms, with a focus on land disputes, and become active agents of peace) contributed to enhanced community participation in planning and prioritization of key drivers for inclusive development and

resilience against conflict-related shocks. This was done through a scoping exercise to map out youth and gender related conflict drivers and peace infrastructure in two counties in northern Liberia. Gathered evidence enabled the development of two Community Action plans (CAPs) following community-based training for young men and women.

Outcome 2 (Rural young women and men have access to sustainable agricultural livelihoods addressing key drivers of conflict) supported peacebuilding initiatives through livelihood opportunities. Working closely with communities in northern and central Liberia, the Fund initiated cultivation of lowlands for rice and vegetable production in two counties. This aimed at preventing conflict and improving social cohesion through employment opportunities and their impact on jobs, incomes and skills. Table 2 highlights progress on key project indicators.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results
<p>Indicator: Percentage change in perceptions among youth, women and local leaders of their own ability to prevent, reduce and cope with conflict and promote peace</p> <p>Target: at least 20% increase in perception change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scoping exercise to map youth, gender and land-related conflicts to provide critical baseline information was conducted. The exercise also gathered information on the status of existing peace mechanisms; and employment and livelihood opportunities that would have positive impacts on peacebuilding among targeted communities. The mapping provided the Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs) and local partners a foundation to review what worked and what did not in past mediations and conflict prevention approaches.
<p>Indicator: Percentage change in the number of land related conflicts and disputes in the project areas.</p> <p>Target: At least 25% reduction in land related disputes and conflicts by the end of the project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project supported interventions aimed at promoting access to enhanced peacebuilding and conflict resolution capacities for youth and their communities. This was done through two community-based participatory planning exercises in Zorzor and Salayea (Lofa County) communities once viewed as deeply polarized as a result of the civil war. The participatory planning approach was used to build social capital in divided communities by providing safe spaces for interaction, communication and joint decision-making. • Two Community Action plans (CAPs) were developed, prioritizing inclusive development whilst building resilience against conflict related shocks. This was preceded by a training-of-trainers workshop aimed at setting the platform for local stakeholders to understand the tool and concept of community-based participatory planning (CBPP), stressing the nexus between participatory planning and peacebuilding
<p>Indicator: Percentage of targeted youth with access to sustainable agricultural livelihoods.</p> <p>Target: At least 50% of targeted youth (male: 50% and female: 50%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although commencement was affected by the seasonality of Liberia (rainy season), initiatives, including mobilization of essential agricultural tools were done and made available to project communities to begin cultivating low and high lands in response to livelihood income generation activities. These activities are expected to make progress in the third quarter, 2020.

Table 2: Sustaining Peace Project - Progress against key indicators

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

Under Outcome 1, (Zogos/Zogesse in Montserrado County are socially reintegrated and peacefully co-exist with communities) support was provided for the psycho-social services of disadvantaged youth. More than the targeted 500 caseload of beneficiaries were registered at three government identified drop-in-centers. Fifteen mental health clinicians were trained to support the screening and follow-up process.

In Outcome 2 (Improved access of 500 Zogos/Zogesse in Montserrado County to sustainable livelihood and employment opportunities to enhance their resilience to conflict and social tension), efforts towards income generation activities were initiated. Out of the 500 registered beneficiaries, 223 were enrolled in the skills and vocational training after successfully passing psychosocial screening. Fifteen social workers were, also, trained for effective implementation of the intervention as highlighted in Table 3 below.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results
<p>Indicator: Percentage of Zogos/Zogesse accessing SRH, psychosocial, mental health and drug rehabilitation services at the MOH drop in centers</p> <p>Target: 100% (by end of project)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project supported the establishment of three drop-in centers; and training of 15 social workers and 15 mental health clinicians in psychosocial counselling and support services. • The morale of beneficiaries was high as they accessed training, but this momentum was sometimes affected by the delay of mental health drugs, which were finally procured by UNFPA during the reporting period. The availability of mental health drugs was a necessity to stabilizing beneficiaries who are enslaved by drugs.
<p>Indicator: Percentage of project beneficiaries with livelihood skills</p> <p>Target: 100% (by end of project)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While it is still early to determine the percentage of beneficiaries with livelihood skills, the project enrolled the first batch of 223 beneficiaries that passed psychosocial screening into skills and vocational training. The project is working with the Ministry of Youth and Sports; Mental Health Unit in the Ministry of Health; and CSOs to identify and recruit the target group. The project strategic intervention is critical to sustaining the peace in Liberia.

Table 3: SEED Project - Progress against key indicators

Support to LMPTF/PBF Joint Secretariat

The Secretariat Project has one outcome: Effective coordination, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and communication on the achievements of the LMPTF, including PBF's investment in Liberia and the sustained growth of investment in peacebuilding-related programmes through the PBF/LMPTF modalities. During the period under review, the Joint LMPTF/PBF Secretariat oversaw the daily functioning of the Fund and provided technical and management support to the Steering Committee. As a Joint Secretariat, it coordinated the implementation of three LMPTF seven PBF projects. It coordinated the convening of the SC on strategic priorities; and programmatic and financial management at the Fund level. It provided oversight and quality assurance for projects under the portfolio; and actively interfaced with the MPTFO for approvals, reporting and other programmatic issues. The Secretariat liaised with RUNOs to ensure regular and effective monitoring and evaluation

of projects. It also coordinated the realization of TWG and monthly technical Fund review meetings, as well as ensured donors' visibility through a well-structured communication strategy. M&E guidance was provided to the projects from planning to implementation, including an Evaluability Assessment. The assessment provided a platform for adjustments to increase the likelihood of achieving intended results premised on identified challenges, gaps, lessons learned and way forward as well as set the basis for an effective final evaluation. The findings and recommendations of the assessment helped the projects to address key challenges that would have potentially affected effective delivery and smooth evaluation. The report was shared with PBSO. Table 4 shows progress towards one of the key project indicators.

Key Indicators	Indicator Progress/Results
<p>Indicator: Percentage of satisfaction express with the support provided by the LMPTF/PBF Joint Secretariat to Stakeholders (disaggregated by: Steering Committee members, RUNOs, Government, donors, CSOs).</p> <p>Target: At least 70% satisfaction rate (by end of project)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the absence of an independent final evaluation of this project, it would be unrealistic to provide empirical evidence on the satisfaction of stakeholders in response to the work of the Secretariat. Nevertheless, a recent evaluability assessment conducted by the Secretariat, confirmed “good and collaborative relationship with the LMPTF/PBF Secretariat” as well as its support to the project teams.

Table 4: Joint Secretariat Project - Progress against key indicators

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

Project alignment	Signature solutions
All three Projects	Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.
Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative reforms and civic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's empowerment and gender equality Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies
Sustaining peace and improving social cohesion through the promotion of rural employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping people out of poverty Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies Crisis prevention and increased resilience Women's empowerment and gender equality Environment: nature-based solutions for development

Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged (SEED) Youth in Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment: nature-based solutions for development • Governance for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies • Women's empowerment and gender equality
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Lessons Learned

Limited interagency coordination affects relationships between agencies and slows delivery. During the reporting period, there was limited coordination between and among agencies (RUNOs) implementing the SEED and Advancing Reconciliation Projects. This indirectly impeded limited communication between their respective implementing partners, thereby affecting effective implementation. When the agencies rectified these irregularities, project deliveries improved.

3. Fund operational performance

The governance structure of the LMPTF includes a Steering Committee, Thematic Working Groups and a Secretariat.

LMPTF Steering Committee: The Fund’s key governing body is the Steering Committee (SC), which approved the three projects under review. The LMPTF Steering Committee provides strategic oversight and general supervision of the Fund. It is co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator and made up of two representatives from the Government, two representatives of UN Agencies, and two rotating representatives of the donors. In addition, one civil society representative, one World Bank representative, one EU representative, and one African Development Bank representative are invited as observers. The LMPTF’s governance structure ensures national ownership. The Steering Committee takes its decisions by consensus and should meet bi-annually at the minimum. However, during the reporting period, the SC met once in November 2019. Among other things, it reviewed the progress of the three projects and approved continued implementation; assessed challenges and how they were resolved, and lessons learnt; and approved one new project that commenced in January 2020.

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

LMPTF Secretariat: The Secretariat oversees the daily functioning of the Fund and provides technical and management support to the Steering Committee. As a Joint Secretariat, it coordinated the implementation of the three projects and other under the LMPTF and PBF. The Secretariat coordinated the convening of the SC on strategic priorities; and programmatic and financial management at the fund level. It provided oversight and quality assurance for projects under the portfolio; and actively interfaced with the MPTFO for approvals, reporting and other programmatic

issues. The Secretariat liaised with RUNOs to ensure regular and effective monitoring and evaluation of projects. It also coordinated the realization of TWG and monthly technical Fund review meetings.

Risk management: Based on risks identified by the projects, the Fund developed a consolidated risk log which was updated regularly. It enabled identification, monitoring and timely response to prevent slow down and/or non-implementation of planned activities. Key among the identified risks is the country's potential to relapse to conflict and violence because of remaining causes of fragility. This was continually monitored and addressed through consultation with the Government and involved parties; and use of the RC's good offices to advocate for dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution. Attempts of political interference and unwarranted pressure from government officials were also noted as potential risks; and arose in several cases. These were also addressed through the good offices and continued advocacy at project level. High expectations among beneficiaries, partly caused by a long period of dependency on the UN and other partners were a marked risk in three projects implemented by RUNOs. Continuous awareness creation activities were mainstreamed in all intervention to create a common understanding of project's expected outcomes. Inadequate financial resources remained a key risk for the Fund. Over the reporting period, the Fund only received support for the PBF, which is supposed to be a catalyst not only donor. Under the leadership of the RC, the Fund sustained efforts to publicize its activities and strategic advantage among donors for support. This will continue in 2020 to attract partnership to capitalize and strengthen the Fund.

LMPTF: Donor fatigue towards committing funding to the LMPTF to sustain the peace has the propensity to undermine gains achieved through the support of bilateral and multi-lateral partners in almost two decades. Although some individual projects have catalytic funding from other sources, but the LMPTF as a portfolio has PBF as its only donor to the LMPTF which risks financial pitfall by the PBF, whose funding support is largely premised on catalytic results. Other donors have expressed interest to support the fund. The LMPTF addresses critical peacebuilding gaps, post UN Mission.

Lessons Learned

The consistent involvement of government partners in planning together with RUNOs has helped to build confidence and influence the speedy endorsement of relevant policy and programme documents by senior officials.

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

4. Fund Financial Performance

This section presents financial data and analysis of the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2019.

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

4.1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2019, 1 contributor deposited US\$ 4,097,495 in contributions and US\$ 2,444 was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US\$ 4,099,939. Of this amount, US\$ 4,097,485 has been net funded to 7 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 1,819,267 has been reported as expenditure. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund as of 31 December 2019.

Table 5: Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2019	Cumulative
Sources of Funds		
Contributions from donors	-	-
Contributions to MDTFs	4,097,495	4,097,495
- Sub-total Contributions	4,097,495	4,097,495
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	2,444	2,444
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	-	-
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors	-	-
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF	-	-
Other Income	-	-
Total: Sources of Funds	4,099,939	4,099,939
Use of Funds		
Transfers to Participating Organizations	3,150,001	3,150,001
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-	-
Net Funded Amount	3,150,001	3,150,001
Administrative Agent Fees	-	-
Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...etc.)	947,484	947,484
Bank Charges	0	0

Other Expenditures	-	-
Total: Uses of Funds	4,097,485	4,097,485
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	2,454	2,454
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	-	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	2,454	2,454
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	4,097,485	4,097,485
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	1,819,267	1,819,267
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations		2,278,217

4.2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December 2019.

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

The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December 2019 through signed Standard Administrative Agreements, and deposits made through 2019. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2019.

Table 6: Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Current Year Jan-Dec-2019 Deposits	Total Deposits
Peacebuilding Fund	4,097,495	4,097,495	4,097,495
Grand Total	4,097,495	4,097,495	4,097,495

4.3. INTEREST EARNED

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

As of 31 December 2019, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ 2,444.

Details are provided in the table below.

Table 7: Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Current Year Jan-Dec-2019	Total
Administrative Agent		
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	2,444	2,444
Total: Fund Earned Interest	2,444	2,444
Participating Organization		
Total: Agency earned interest		
Grand Total	2,444	2,444

4.4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2019, the AA has transferred US\$ 3,150,001 to 7 Participating Organizations (see list below).

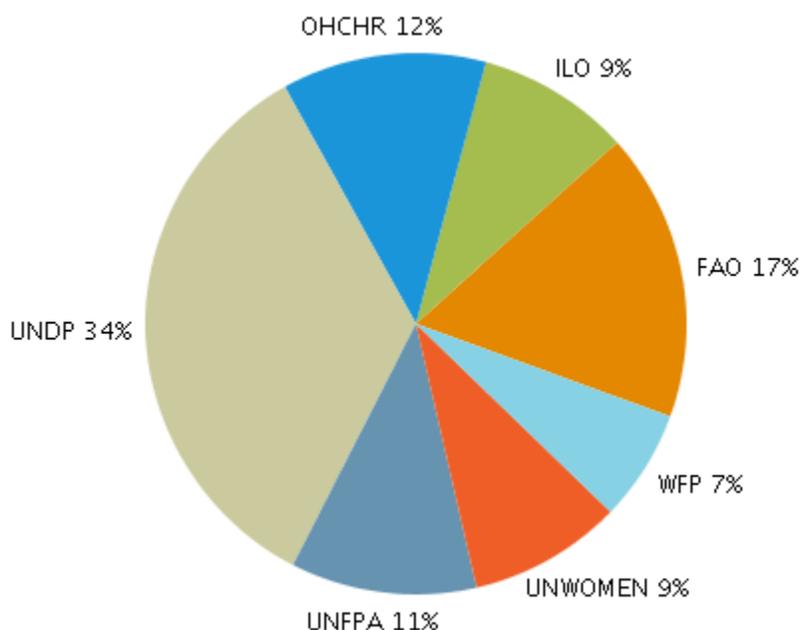
4.4.1 TRANSFER BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 8: Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2018			Current Year Jan-Dec-2019			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
FAO				532,029		532,029	532,029		532,029
ILO				283,990		283,990	283,990		283,990
OHCHR				379,108		379,108	379,108		379,108
UNDP				1,074,954		1,074,954	1,074,954		1,074,954
UNFPA				350,000		350,000	350,000		350,000
UNWOMEN				295,939		295,939	295,939		295,939
WFP				233,981		233,981	233,981		233,981
Grand Total				3,150,001		3,150,001	3,150,001		3,150,001

Figure 1: Transfers amount by Participating Organization for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2019



4.5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year 2019 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2019 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/4LR00>

4.5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In 2019, US\$ 3,150,001 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ 1,444,948 was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ 3,150,001 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 1,444,948. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 46 percent.

The agencies with the three highest delivery rates are: UNWOMEN (90%), OHCHR (52%) and WFP (48%)

Table 9: Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2018	Current Year Jan-Dec-2019	Cumulative	
FAO	760,042	532,029		171,987	171,987	32.33
ILO	405,700	283,990		115,509	115,509	40.67
OHCHR	541,583	379,108		196,164	196,164	51.74
UNDP	1,535,649	1,074,954		450,579	450,579	41.92
UNFPA	500,000	350,000		131,448	131,448	37.56
UNWOMEN	422,769	295,939		266,553	266,553	90.07
WFP	334,259	233,981		112,709	112,709	48.17
Grand Total	4,500,001	3,150,001		1,444,948	1,444,948	45.87

4.5.2 EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

Table 6 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Participating Organization.

Table 10: Expenditure by Project within Country, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Country / Project No.and Project Title	Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Delivery Rate %	
Liberia						
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving	FAO	760,042	532,029	171,987	32.33
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving	ILO	405,700	283,990	115,509	40.67
00114507	Sustaining Peace and improving	WFP	334,259	233,981	112,709	48.17
00114726	Socio-Economic Empowerment of	UNDP	900,001	630,000	78,894	12.52
00114726	Socio-Economic Empowerment of	UNFPA	500,000	350,000	131,448	37.56
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation throu	OHCHR	541,583	379,108	196,164	51.74
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation throu	UNDP	635,648	444,954	371,685	83.53
00115040	Advancing Reconciliation throu	UNWOMEN	422,769	295,939	266,553	90.07

Liberia Total	4,500,001	3,150,001	1,444,948	45.87
Grand Total	4,500,001	3,150,001	1,444,948	45.87

4.5.3 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

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

2012 CEB Expense Categories

1. Staff and personnel costs
2. Supplies, commodities and materials
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation
4. Contractual services
5. Travel
6. Transfers and grants
7. General operating expenses
8. Indirect costs

Table 11: Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2019 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditure			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2018	Current Year Jan-Dec-2019	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	-	259,169	259,169	19.22
Suppl, Comm, Materials	-	24,324	24,324	1.80
Equip, Veh, Furn, Depn	-	33,127	33,127	2.46
Contractual Services	-	342,528	342,528	25.40
Travel	-	101,022	101,022	7.49
Transfers and Grants	-	181,011	181,011	13.43
General Operating	-	407,092	407,092	30.19
Programme Costs Total	-	1,348,272	1,348,272	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	-	96,676	96,676	7.17
Total	-	1,444,948	1,444,948	

¹ Indirect Support Costs charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later

stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

4.6. COST RECOVERY

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

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2019, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period no AA-fee was deducted.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ 96,676 was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ 96,676 as of 31 December 2019.

4.7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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

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

4.8. DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Secretariat services and overall coordination, as well as Fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. In the reporting period, direct costs charged to the fund amounted to US\$ 947,484.

Table 12: Direct Costs

Participating Organization	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Delivery Rate
UNDP	947,484	374,320	40%
Total:	947,484	374,320	40%

5. Conclusion – way forward

The LMPTF Portfolio remains relevant in sustaining peace, especially following a twin-transition that saw the transfer of power in January 2018 from one democratic leadership to another, since 1944. This coincided with the end and departure of the UN Mission in Liberia. The Fund’s interventions support government peacebuilding efforts and should be sustained to strengthen institutional capacities to promote peacebuilding, human rights and rule of law related initiatives. Increased coordination and monitoring of the projects by the Secretariat will be critical in ensuring timely and effective implementation.

Annexes

Annex 1: Programme Mandate

Fund's objectives and principles

The Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund (LMPTF) serves as the centerpiece for the Government, international community, the UN system, and relevant stakeholders to sustain peace and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Liberia. It functions as both a coordination framework and a financing platform to support the implementation of the Government's national development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), informed by the priorities of the Liberia Peacebuilding Plan.⁵

The architecture of the LMPTF is designed to support and accelerate the implementation of the PAPD. The UN Window will initially support delivery of the current UNDAF⁶ and subsequently the PAPD. The National Window will be directly linked to supporting the implementation of the PAPD. The LMPTF projects and programmes will be formulated through the lens of local SDG priority areas throughout the four PAPD and UNDAF pillars.

The LMPTF brings together two windows under common governance arrangement to promote: 1) coordination across activities and instrument; 2) alignment with national priorities; and 3) reduced transaction costs for the government and development partners alike. The Windows are administrated by UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), based on specific legal frameworks set up for each Window.

In addition to channeling funds for programmatic activities, the LMPTF promotes coordination across different financing instruments. In that regard, the LMPTF fosters the inclusion of such activities under one reporting. The UN will strive to align the governance of its existing programmes to the LMPTF governance, to the extent possible, and aim to increasingly channel more resources under the goal of predictable 'One Fund'.

The comparative advantage of the LMPTF includes its continuous engagement and strengthened coordination on the areas that aim to tackle root causes of conflicts, its capacity for immediate delivery (rapid cycle), strategic allocation of resources by leveraging comparative advantages of participating UN agencies and the national entities, reduced transaction costs, enhanced transparency and most importantly, strong ownership by the Government and the UN's focused support to the Government to deliver the PAPD.

Contributions to the funds can be made by bilateral and multilateral development partners, private sector, foundations, and non-governmental organizations. Contributions to the two windows are governed by the Standard Administrative Arrangement by the UN MPTFO.

⁵ "Sustaining Peace and Securing Development" (document S/2017/282), endorsed by the UN Security Council.

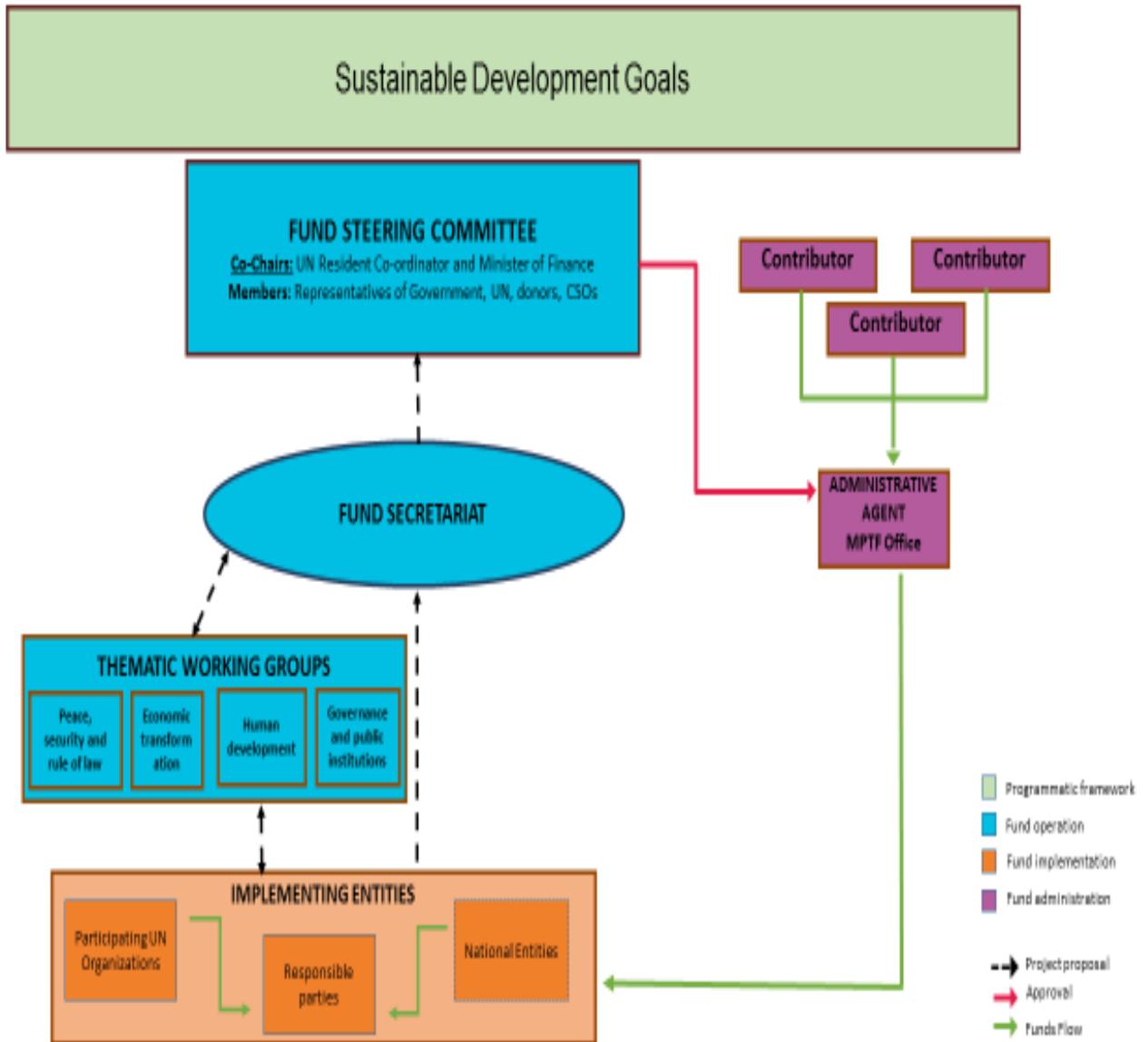
⁶ The LMPTF will be linked to the new UNSDCF which was launch in January 2020.

Annex 2: Overview of the Liberia MPTF

Table 1 The LMPTF structure

	UN Window	National Window
Focus	Supporting the current UNDAF and subsequently the PAPD. Once the next generation of the UNDAF is launched, the LMPTF will be re-aligned to the new UNDAF.	Supporting the implementation of the PAPD.
Governance and Administration	The two windows share their governance and administration structures, except the implementing entities, as following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund operation, involving the coordination and operation, performed by a Steering Committee, the Thematic Working Groups and the Fund Secretariat. • Fund design and administration, performed by the Administrative Agent (MPTF Office). 	
Delivery modalities (Implementing entities)	Participating UN organizations are eligible to receive funding. Financing may be provided to others as implementing partners of the recipient UN agency, based on rules and regulations of the participating UN organizations	The projects are implemented by the national entities (i.e. pre-qualified government institutions) to receive direct fund allocations from the LMPTF. The projects will support the Government of Liberia to be the leaders of their own development and peace consolidation related initiatives and ensure that capacity building and knowledge transfer are sustainable and replicable by the national institutions.

Annex 3: A Graphic Representation of the LMPTF Governance Structure



Annex 4: Acronyms

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
ILO	International Labor Organization
LMPTF	Liberia Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MPTFO	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
OHCHR	Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
PAPD	Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
RC	Resident Coordinator
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SC	Steering Committee
SEED	Socio-Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged Youth in Liberia
TCC	Technical Coordination Committee
TWG	Thematic Working Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WFP	World Food Programme