

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Liberia is a unitary country divided into 15 counties, 129 districts and 35 statutory districts. There are no elected LRGs as both local governments assemblies and mayors are appointed by the President of the Republic.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

In 2012, Liberia developed a Vision 2030 framework which addresses the social, economic, political, environmental, cultural, and technological aspirations of the country. The **Five-year National Development Plans (NDP)** materialize this vision and are aligned with the SDGs. The **Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development 2018-2023 (PAPD)** is the second NDP. It aims for inclusion, a more equitable distribution of national wealth and a rights-based approach to national development aligned with the 2030 and 2063 Agendas.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **PAPD National Steering Committee**, chaired by the President of the Republic of Liberia, is responsible for overall coordination and leadership. It is supported by **Technical Working Groups** composed of technicians and specialists from government institutions, development partners, civil society, and the private sector. The **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning** serves as a secretariat to the Steering Committee and is in charge of national coordination for SDG implementation. Moreover, according to the 2022 VNR, the government, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector have committed to establishing a **multi-stakeholder platform** under the PAPD National Steering Committee to advance the effectiveness of development cooperation in Liberia.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning** led the coordination of the 2020 and 2022 VNR processes, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and ministries, agencies and commissions. As part of the 2020 VNR process, technical teams were set up to work on the data collection and report on the implementation of the SDGs at all levels, and virtual consultations were conducted with different stakeholders. The 2022 VNR process benefited from better stakeholders' engagement. Indeed, consultative meetings were held with the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, religious groups, and children, as well as ministries, agencies and commissions and the United Nations. Furthermore, a validation workshop was organized in which multiple stakeholders participated.

1.3 MONITORING

There are structures and procedures in place at both national and subnational levels to monitor and assess the progress of the PAPD and the implementation of the SDGs such as the **National Statistical System**, the **National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**, the Performance Management and Compliance System, and the Citizen Feedback Mechanism. However, the 2022 VNR points out that monitoring in the public sector remains insufficient to provide the data needed to track national development results and the SDGs. Another challenge mentioned is that the PAPD indicators are not properly aligned with SDGs indicators and targets, especially with the various disaggregation types.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf

2. See: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf (2020); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Liberia%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The 2020 VNR recognized that the national planning process is “top-down in structure”. However, regional consultative meetings were held to review performance on the past national plan and build consensus on the best way forward. In principle, this connects the national and local levels planning processes, but institutional inadequacies have limited the operation of the planning process. Furthermore, the role of local authorities in SDG localization efforts is restricted in Liberia. **Multisectoral/regional planning working groups** include the heads of government institutions’ planning departments and county development committees.

In the 2020 VNR process, the **county development committees** were responsible for leading subnational consultations. Due to financial constraints, consultations at the county level were not held as part of the VNR 2022 process, but the outputs of the consultations organized at local level during the VNR readiness assessment have been taken into account. In its conclusion, the 2022 VNR highlights that there is a need to increase participation at the subnational level for the implementation of the SDGs.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

Not applicable.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are few references to counties and cities in the 2020 and 2022 VNRs, and no specific section nor precise reference on their role in implementing the SDGs.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Paynesville, a suburb of the city of **Monrovia**, focused its strategy on specific areas of intervention, such as public health and water management. It managed to provide education and hygiene supplies to communities affected with the Ebola Virus Disease, as an attempt to increase its resilience to future public health challenges.³

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In Liberia, low domestic productivity and a weak private sector dominated by the informal economy limit domestic revenue mobilization. Therefore, the country developed a **Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy** that aims to finance the PAPD and achieve the SDGs. There is no information on SDG means of implementation at the local level.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR refers to the ‘leave no one behind’ strategy, whose aim is to ensure that development gains are equitably spread across the country and not just concentrated in a few urban areas. To this end, special attention is dedicated, among other things, to the decentralization of government services and the involvement of local communities as stakeholders.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Liberia has a limited number of women in managerial positions in the public sector at both national and subnational levels. Out of 15 county superintendents, only three are women, and out of 30 mayors, only ten are women.

3. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

3.2 COVID 19

There is no information on local responses to the crisis. Nevertheless, it was specified in the 2020 VNR, regarding other kinds of emergency, that the national government would strengthen Disaster Management Committees at national, district and county levels. The 2022 VNR stresses that COVID-19 has affected socio-economic development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Liberia, undermining SDG progress. The government recalibrated and revised the PAPD due to COVID-19 impacts.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁴

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		-
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		70.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		10.8 (2015, Monrovia)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		52.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		0 (2020)

4. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>