



RECOVERY OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FOR LIBERIAN INFORMAL SECTOR
EMPLOYMENT

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

NOVEMBER 2024

PROJECT DURATION

- EFFECTIVENESS DATE: OCTOBER 2021**
- EXPECTED CLOSING DATE: December 2026**

Project Development Objectives

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector in response to crises, expand income and livelihood support to poor and food insecure households, and improve efficiency in managing social protection programs in Liberia.

Funding and donors

DONOR	FOUNDING TYPE	AMOUNT
World Bank	IDA Credit	US\$25M
	IDA Grant	US\$5M
Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)	Grant	US\$2.5M
Agence Francaise De Developpement (AFD)	Grant	EUR€8.8 M

Components and objectives

NO	COMPONENT	OBJECTIVE
1	Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses	The objective is to provide opportunities for vulnerable households in the informal sector to recover livelihood activities threatened by shocks.
2	Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers	Facilitate the reentry of poor and vulnerable informal workers into productive employment and contribute positively to climate change adaptation.
3	Capacity building and project implementation and coordination	The objectives of this component is to support capacity building at all levels for Government and other actors for the coordination, design, and implementation of the project

Components and objectives cont

NO	COMPONENT	OBJECTIVE
4	Contingent Emergency Response Component	to allow for rapid reallocation of loan proceeds from other project components during an emergency.
5	Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support (CLAS)	Support poor and food insecure households in rural areas to engage in Income-generation activities through communal farming.
6	Social Cash Transfer and Strengthening of the National Social Protection System	Provide income support to poor and food-insecure households in selected counties, as well as support the strengthening of the national social protection system.

PROJECT COMPONENTS, TARGET BENEFICIARIES & IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTIONS

COMPONENT	TARGET NUMBER BENEFICIARIES	INSTITUTION
COMPONENT ONE	4,450	LACE
COMPONENT TWO	17,000	MYS
COMPONENT FIVE	16,200	LACE
COMPONENT SIX	16,000	MGCSP



IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

UPDATES PER COMPONENT



Support to Small Business (SSB)

Component One

Summary of Achievements, Gaps, Mitigation

Objective

The Support to Small Business (SSB) Component seeks to provide grant (up to US\$900/beneficiary) to vulnerable individuals, to revive or start Small Businesses in Montserrado and Margibi counties. The component also provides business management training to enable beneficiaries manage and sustain their businesses.

- Under this component, a total of 4,450 individual beneficiaries are expected to benefit.
- Implementation activities are structured in three (3) rounds with each lasting for twelve (12) months.

Achievements

- ✓ To date, 3,055 (Montserrado- 2,830, Margibi- 225) of the 4,450 targeted beneficiaries have been reached under Round One and Two implementations.
- ✓ Out of the 3,055 beneficiaries reached, 2,482 are females (81%) of the number reached
- ✓ 2,570 beneficiaries have existing businesses, and 485 are new businesses
- ✓ For the Third and final round of implementation under this component, 1,395 beneficiaries are recruited in 18 (Montserrado, 15, Margibi, 3) communities for both existing and new business.

Upcoming Activities (Based on funds)

- Recruitment of Service Provider
- Rollout of Round Three activities with 1,395 beneficiaries in 18 communities in Montserrado and Margibi counties.
- Conduct Business training
- Disbursement of business grants

Challenges and Mitigation Measures

- PMT was unable to upload business proposals and unable to generate payroll through the MIS; which led to delay in grant disbursement and completion of Round 2 activities.

MITIGATION PLAN

- Payrolls were generated outside the MIS, and SP contract extended twice to ensure full completion of Round 2 activities.



LABOR INTENSIVE PUBLIC WORKS (LIPW) Component Two

Implementation UPDATE

OBJECTIVE

To facilitate the reentry of poor and vulnerable informal workers into productive employment as well as positively contribute to climate change adaptation through series of community-driven development activities that aim to improve the environment and well-being of poor and vulnerable communities in urban areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS

No.	Activities	Achievement
1.	Target Beneficiaries – 17,000	10,800 (64%) Enrolled
2.	Target Communities - 170	108 (64%) - 58 Completed, 50 Ongoing
3.	Number of Female Enrolled	5,911 (55%)

TYPES OF SUBPROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Coding of Homes
Waste and Sanitation
Street Naming
Health Awareness

Hygiene Promotion
Beautification
Adult Literacy
Tie-dye

Rounds of Implementation, Target Beneficiaries & Status

Rounds	Number of Communities	Target Number of Beneficiaries	Actual Beneficiaries (Achievements)	Counties of intervention	Implementation Status
Round 1	25	2,500	2,500	Montserrado (Greater Monrovia)	Completed
Round 2	33	3,300	3,300	Montserrado and Margibi	Completed
Round 3	50	5,000	5,000	Montserrado and Margibi	Ongoing

Rounds of Implementation, Target Beneficiaries & Status

Rounds	Number of Communities	Target Number of Beneficiaries	Actual Beneficiaries (Achievements)	Counties of intervention	Implementation Status
Round 4	50	5,000	-	Montserrado and Margibi	Pending
Round 5	12	1,200	-	Montserrado and Margibi	Pending
Round 6	0	0	-	N/A	N/A
TOTAL		17,000	10,800		

Female


5,911 (55%)

Male

4,889 (45%)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

No.	Activities
1.	Round 3, 4 and 5 Implementation 2024 - 2026
	a. Community Engagements
	b. Recruitments/Data Collection
	c. Subproject Implementation



Community Livelihood & Agriculture Support (CLAS)

Achievements, Challenges, Recommendations,
Upcoming Activities

Background & Objective

- ❖ The CLAS component aim to improve livelihood opportunities and climate resilience for poor and vulnerable populations in rural areas of Liberia, directly responding to the current food crisis through communal farming.
- ❖ Counties of intervention include Bomi, Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh and Sinoe.
- ❖ Target number of beneficiaries is 16,200 in 8 counties

Support under the CLAS component

- Farm start-up grants of US\$1,680 to each beneficiary farming group of 28
- Cash transfer of US\$350 as labor subsidy to each beneficiary
- Community Development Support (CDS) grants of up to US\$1,800 to each farming community
- US\$20,000 for market link support (MLS) to each cooperative
- Life skills and climate-smart agriculture trainings.

Achievements

- ✓ Out of the 16,200 targeted beneficiaries, 5,376 (2,714 females, 2,662 males) enrolled under Round One implementation in 192 communities across 8 counties.
- ✓ Also, 960 (254 females, 706 males) Community Oversight Committee (COC) members enrolled and providing implementation support.
- ✓ Two tranches (US\$50, US\$150) Labor subsidy paid to 5,376 beneficiaries
- ✓ First tranche (US\$50) labor subsidy paid to 960 COCs
- ✓ Of the targeted 6,720 acres under Round One, 6,788 cultivated with variety of crops
- ✓ Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to provide implementation support

Achievements Cont.

- ✓ Life Skills training for beneficiaries completed in all implementing counties
- ✓ First tranche payment-30% (540.00) disbursed to 192 communities across the 8 counties to implement small-scale community development projects.
- ✓ 12 Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) enrolled to provide market linkage and value addition activities to beneficiary farming groups.
- ✓ County, district and community consultations for Round Two implementation completed. With 240 new communities selected.

Challenges and Recommendations

- Delayed mobile money registration due to insufficient free SIM cards from Lonestar MTN.
 - ✓ PMT proposes procurement of SIM cards and issuance immediately after recruitment of new beneficiaries. This will reduce the lag time between mobile money registration and payment of tool grant and labor subsidies.
- Delayed disbursement of labor subsidy and CDS grants due to payroll finalization (misspelled communities and beneficiaries names).
 - ✓ PMT will ensure the accurate spelling of the community names during community consultations. This measure is intended to provide accurate consultation and recruitment data, and minimize challenges experienced with Round One implementation.

Upcoming Activities

- Enroll 6,720 beneficiaries in 240 new communities (Dec. 2024-Jan. 2025)
- Continue CDS implementation (till March 2025 for round one implementation)
- Payment of third and final labor subsidy to Round One beneficiaries (December 15, 2024)
- Payment of second tranche labor subsidy to COCs (December 15, 2024)
- Disburse second tranche CDS grant to communities (Nov. 1-30, 2024)
- Disburse first tranche grant to FBOs for market linkage and value addition activities (Nov. 1-30, 2024)



Component Six(6)

Social Cash Transfers and Strengthening of the National Social Protection System

Objective

The objective of the Social Cash Transfer Program is to expand income support to poor and food-insecure households through the provision of Cash Transfers.

Counties of focus and Target Number of Beneficiaries

NO	Counties	Number of Beneficiaries
1	Grand Bassa	7,800
2	River Gee	3,500
3	Grand Kru	2,100
4	Rivercess	2,600
Grand Total		16,000

Benefit Package

Benefit package include:

- *Mobile Phones*
- *SIM Card and Mobile Money Registration*
- *Cashout Fees*
- *Cash Transfer (amount based on household size)*
- *NIR Card*
- *Couple Financial Planning*

Implementation Status: SCT Beneficiaries Enrolment

County Selection	Beneficiary Households (n, rounded)	Registered	Ineligible	Pending approval	Enrolled	Data Cleaning	Pending Payment	Paid
Grand Bassa	7,800	5,614	280	995	4,339		2,710	1,629
Grand Kru	2,100	1,200			1,066	134	162	904
Rivercess	2,600							
River Gee	3,500							
Total	16,000	6,814	280	995	5,405	134	2,872	2,533

Challenges

- ✓ Liquidity: Scarcity of Liberian Dollar on the market resulting in delay payment to beneficiaries.
- ✓ SIM cards supply issues
- ✓ Underpopulation resulting in low enrollment in Grand Bassa
- ✓ Administrative approval processes at implementing entity
- ✓ Social Registry Information System (SRIS) issues
 - Outdated geo-locations and lack of up-to-date localities listing