

Post 2015 Liberia Consultation Report

An Agenda out of Fragility

The People of Liberia's contribution towards an emerging consensus on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Framework that will be globally endorsed and locally relevant

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Youth Participation in Montserrado Consultation

Post-2015 Liberia Consultation Report

Section A

Executive Summary

An Agenda out of Fragility

1.1. Liberia is a resource rich country with a long history of under-development, natural resource exploitation and export with minimal added-value and social exclusion that created the environment for 14 years of conflict and decline in already low levels of national development indicators. There has since been a decade of rebuilding institutions and basic services, with the support of the UN, particularly in stabilising security. Only 3 out of 8 MDGs are likely to be achieved. It remains a fragile state.

1.2. Liberia has moved from a pariah state to the centre of global discussions on aid effectiveness in fragile states (Busan New Deal) and the post-2015 agenda (UN High Level Panel). There has been significant investment in consultations with those previously marginalised by their location, ethnicity, sex or disabilities, leading to the Liberia Vision 2030 for becoming a middle-income country, its 5-year Agenda for Transformation and the Roadmap for Reconciliation as well as others. Yet concern remains that consultation may lead to new policies at national and global level, which may not be effectively implemented and affect lives on the margins.

1.3. The consultation with local communities, involving 2,000 in a survey, 1,000 in county consultations and over 100 of these from across the country and social backgrounds in the Validation Consultation, on the Post-2015 Agenda is (i) seen as informing global decisions on an agenda that can learn from Liberia's experience of conflict and fragility and have relevance for many other countries and (ii) will also inform Liberia's position in the UN General Assembly in Sept 2013 regarding this global agenda, such that it can then be relevant for Liberia and international partners supporting the national agenda.

1.4. Liberians, through the consultation, have endorsed the **Principles** of focusing on addressing inequalities that drive conflict and sustain fragility through **EQUITY, RIGHTS** that, where appropriate, should be nationally defined and included in national Constitutions and **INCLUSION** and that this **inclusion principle must be explicitly qualified by reference to PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**, in line with the UN Convention, and that their rights and those of women, children and minorities should be protected and promoted with special measures.

1.5. Liberians, through the consultation, have further endorsed the **Dimensions of INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**, with particular reference to national interests in natural resource management, extraction and value-addition for generating skills and employment; **PEACE & SECURITY WITH RECONCILIATION; GOOD GOVERNANCE**, with community participation from design to implementation of policy and programmes; and **MATERNAL HEALTH**, as an outcome for women, but also affecting households and particularly children, and an indicator of systemic failure or transformation in the health system and society, which warrants elevating it to the level of a global dimension.

1.6. The Priorities expressed within this, with a high priority given to **Education, Infrastructure and Health** and lower order priorities, together provide an environment in which reconciliation is possible and peace and security can be assured.

1.7. The Goals suggested are ones that involve a mixture of rights and progressive targets to realise more ambitious goals in future.

1.8. A strong view was expressed by ordinary Liberians from across the country that they are aware of the drivers of conflict and do not want to return to the unequal state prior to conflict and wish to move away from fragility towards stability. They believe that their views expressed here are of relevance globally to all fragile states or states where exclusion and inequality are high.

Acknowledgments

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Montserrado boys on the edge of the consultation

Contents

Section A: Executive Summary	(ii)
Section B: Overview	1
Section C: Detail	7

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	ii
Acknowledgments	iii
Contents	iv
Acronyms	v
Key Elements	1
Liberian Context – Where we have come from	1
Principles & Dimensions – Where we are going	2
Dimensions.....	3
Additional Dimensions to be added:.....	3
Priorities & Goals – How we will get there	4
Goals.....	4
Diagram 1: Population & Poverty Levels by County.....	6
Diagram 2: Population Density by Clan Area (smallest political division).....	6
Introduction:	7
Background to Post-2015 Consultations in Liberia	7
Liberia Situation and Vision	7
The Post-2015 Liberia Consultations	8
CSO and disability rights consultations.....	8
Liberia Fragility Assessment 2012.....	10
Diagram 3: Access to Healthcare.....	11
Diagram 4: Maternal Health Inequality.....	11
Diagram 6: Road & Mobile Connectivity by Topographical Area.....	12
Diagram 7: Primary School Distribution against Population Density.....	13
Diagram 8: Educational Inequality.....	13
Liberia MDG Progress 2012.....	14
County Consultations:.....	16
Validation Consultation - Monrovia:.....	17
Process Constraints.....	17
Dimensions.....	19
Gender dimensions.....	20
Affirming the Principles.....	20
Problems of implementation in practice.....	20
Neglected principles.....	20
Threats & Barriers.....	20
Neglected Core Dimensions.....	21
Our Priorities	24
1. Quality Education.....	24
2. Infrastructure – roads, energy, ICT connectivity.....	24
3. Health Care – Maternal, child & rural.....	25
4. Gender Equality & Women’s Economic Empowerment.....	25
5. Honest & Responsive Government, including communities in monitoring.....	25
6. Better Job Opportunities.....	26
7. Access to Clean Water & Sanitation.....	26
8. Social Protection – support for those who cannot work.....	27

9. Persons with Disabilities' inclusion and access.....	27
10. Protection against Crime & Violence (Peace & Security).....	27
Additional Cross-cutting issue raised.....	28
Environmental Management.....	28
Our 3 Main Concerns.....	29
Our key Goals.....	29
Extending Key MDGs.....	30
Those who could miss out & how to include these.....	30
Special vulnerabilities.....	31
Annexes:.....	32
Principles & Dimensions.....	32
Dimensions.....	33
Consultation Programme.....	34
Bibliography.....	35

Acronyms

AfDB	Africa Development Bank
AfT	Agenda for Transformation – Liberia’s 2nd Poverty Reduction & Growth Strategy
AGDI	African Gender & Development Index
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AUC	African Union Commission
CDO	County Development Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ECA	UN Economic Commission for Africa
HLP	High Level Panel (of the UN Secretary General on the Post-2015 Agenda)
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MY World	UN Global Survey: www.myworld2015.org
MoPEA	Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
ODI	Overseas Development Institute (UK)
TVET	Technical & Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nation Children’s Fund
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
YOCADS	Youth for Community Academic and Development Services (Liberia)

Section B Overview

Key Elements

Liberian Context – Where we have come from

Liberia has been a deeply fractured society, with differential access to power, economic opportunity, development and services since its political independence over 150 years ago from an American society for the repatriation of African Americans coming out of slavery. It is a rich and fertile country in terms of its natural resources, but has been characterised by a concession economy that benefits the few and generates a low level of demand for unskilled labour for raw material exports with minimal value added. There has been systemic lack of investment across the whole country in basic communications, infrastructure and social services. These conditions, with a lack of a national vision or sense of common identity, polarised between Americo-Liberian dominant values and polity and a wider population affirming its African heritage and traditional leadership, creating multi-dimensional social exclusion, fuelled 14 years of conflict in which possibly 270,000 people, out of a population of only 3.5million, died.

As a result, the existing historic under-development further suffered from rapid decline. For over half the period 1990-2015, used as a benchmark for MDG indicators of progress, Liberia has been in conflict and development regress. That it may achieve three of the 8 MDGs¹ is a tribute to the progress that has occurred since the end of the various conflicts, under a democratically elected government and with the security and institutional support of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the UN specialist development agencies – increasingly aligned behind Liberia's own development plans. Liberia is now moving into a second Poverty Reduction Strategy (2012-2017), the Agenda for Transformation in line with its expressed Vision 2030 to turn Liberia into a middle-income country. It enters this second phase committed to infrastructure investment and human development, together with an emphasis on peace, security and reconciliation and on improved and decentralised governance. However, it does so at a time when UNMIL begins a strategic draw-down and transfer of security responsibilities to Liberian structures, while maintaining some of the development and institutional support at county level. Liberia remains a fragile state as its own 2012 Fragility Assessment as part of the Busan Aid Effectiveness New Deal has shown.

Liberia has moved from being a political pariah to being at the centre of global policy formulation, particularly bringing its perspective of fragility and conflict to the centre of the development agenda. It was closely involved in the negotiations behind the New Deal and its way forward, including in relation to developing its Peace, Security & Governance indicators of *Legitimate Politics; Security; Justice; Economic Foundations; Revenue & Services*. Liberia's President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, is a co-Chair with the President of Indonesia and the UK Prime Minister, of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel (HLP) of Experts on the post-2015 agenda, which held its third meeting in Monrovia in January 2013, informed by civil society consultations across Africa and in Liberia that led to a Jan 2013 Monrovia meeting which directly fed in to the HLP. This included representations from organizations of Persons with Disabilities in Liberia. Liberia also hosted the UN Task Team's Thematic Consultation on Conflict & Fragility in Monrovia in Nov 2012. The UN Country Team, through UNDP, has now supported the Government of Liberia, through its Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs, to hold consultations in all 15 counties on 21st/22nd March, validated in a

¹ Liberia is likely to achieve goals on gender equity; HIV & malaria reduction; and development partnership. It is unlikely to achieve goals on extreme income poverty and extreme hunger; primary education; child mortality (despite good progress recently); maternal health; water & sanitation (Liberia 2012 MDG report)

national consultation of representatives from the counties in Monrovia on 25th March 2103 on the Future We Want To See post-2015. This report summarises those consultations, involving 2,000 in a prior MY World survey, nearly 1,000 in the county level consultations and over 100 plus some officials from these in the National Validation Consultation. Every District was represented by 6 persons – a traditional leader; a child; a youth; a Person with a Disability; an adult male; an adult female, together with 3 CSOs in the county and only 3 or 4 officials.

The current Post-2015 consultations build on many others that have been held, particularly those in 2012 on Liberia's Vision 2030; on its 2012-2017 Agenda for Transformation (AfT); towards its "Roadmap to Reconciliation" and on Peace-building & Education, all of which have sought to obtain the views of those on the margins of society who had generally not been involved in such processes previously. The Peace-building & Education consultations in Sep 2012 included focus group discussions with a wide range of interests, such as the motor-cycle unions, market traders, persons with disabilities, youth organisations, children, ex-combatants and those working on the margins such as domestic workers, open-air mechanics, car-wash boys and street children, as well as with traditional chiefs and leaders of the traditional secret societies, especially the women's Sande societies.

Liberians are strong in affirming that they do not want to return to the past and the conditions that led to conflict and that their view of the post-2015 agenda should help all countries avoid the mistakes of the past that destroy lives and livelihoods and hope for the next generation. In seeking to elaborate on the principles, dimensions and goals that they would want to see globally endorsed, they have had a mind to make their painful experiences useful for other country contexts, while ensuring that they are rooted in the distinctive and unique Liberian context. They have sought to go from the specific and local to the general and global so that in turn the global agenda when agreed may be readily contextualised in the local situation of Liberia and similarly in other fragile states.

Principles & Dimensions – Where we are going

Principles:

The following principles were strongly recommended in the counties and endorsed respectively by between two-thirds and 90% at the National Validation.

Equality of Outcomes: Liberians are adamant that the agenda must focus on those with the poorest outcomes to ensure that there is not a return to the conditions prior to conflict of gross socio-economic and political marginalisation and exclusion. This **focus on addressing inequality** is a political necessity for Liberia and is also believed by Liberians to be a lesson for all fragile states. Gross inequalities are evident in the graphs and maps attached². The desire, where possible, to tie a focus on minimum outcomes into Constitutional rights, reflects a commitment to a new order of inclusion and equity.

Equity that focuses on those who are marginalized, such that no-one falls below a minimum standard to be set nationally by Liberians, enabling elimination of extreme poverty and providing equality of opportunity for all. With this focus, average outcomes should also rise. Some emphasised equality of opportunity AND provision of better services.

Rights that are ideally enshrined in the Constitution, where appropriate, such as the right for all to acquire basic literacy and numeracy or to give birth in a health facility, including right to

² The graphs and maps are taken from UNICEF 2012, based on data from the Demographic & Health Survey 2007 and other Government of Liberia sources.

equal opportunity for all and women's inheritance rights. These should be "in the law, rather than on paper". "Everyone should have the right to growth and life".

Inclusion ensuring inclusive economic growth, which may involve use of administrative guidelines of what can be expected to be government's responsibilities for progressive realization of further development.

There were strongly expressed views, not only by Persons with Disabilities, but also by traditional chiefs and women and others, that this **inclusion principle must be explicitly qualified by reference to Persons with Disabilities**, who must be included in all policy commitments and that their rights and those of women, children and minorities should be protected and promoted with special measures.

Dimensions

The following Dimensions for the post-2015 agenda received generally strong endorsement:

Inclusive social development, but noting that there should be reference to including Persons with Disabilities through responsive government.

Inclusive economic development, including a focus on women's economic empowerment.

Environmental sustainability, with specific reference to including forest management and controls on illegal mining/timber extraction and citizens' rights to benefit from natural resources. Governance of mineral and natural resource extraction and export is seen as having wide significance across many countries in Africa and that this needs to be explicit.

Peace & security needs also to refer to reconciliation and the rule of law. These issues of national identity and inclusion and the nature of citizen-state compact and horizontal inequalities are of wider significance than for Liberia only.

Additional Dimensions to be added:

Good governance: Participants recognised the importance of adding Good Governance as a fundamental dimension as it attracts investors and development partners and creates an environment for peace & stability.

Maternal health: Women in Africa are 100 times as likely as women in developed countries to die giving birth – and 150 times as likely to die giving birth in Liberia³. This is a shocking statistic, which warrants extending the Maternal Health MDG 5. However, maternal health can only change as a result of a range of transformations of political will, good governance in the health system, changed social norms at community and household level, improved infrastructure in terms of health facilities, roads, transport and sustainable local energy, and financial commitments. It is both an outcome for women, but also affecting households and particularly children, and it is an indicator of either systemic failure or transformation in the health system and society. These warrant raising it to the higher level of a self-standing dimension as well as a goal.

³ Africa 1 in 39; Developed countries 1 in 3,800. Liberia 770 in 100,000, but with total fertility rate of 5.2 per F (DHS 2007), lifetime chances of death in giving birth are 5.2 x 770 in 100,000 = 1 in 25.

Priorities & Goals – How we will get there

Liberia's top priorities, coming out across both previous and current consultations, with small variations in order across groups, are:

Quality Education, with vocational training for employment readiness, with a focus on quality of outcomes rather than enrolment;

Infrastructure, particularly roads and energy, from renewable sources, but also mobile phones and internet;

Health care, but particularly for children, in rural areas and maternal;

The next order of priorities is:

Gender equality and women's economic empowerment ;

Honest and responsive government, including communities' involvement in monitoring;

Job opportunities, particularly for youth and women, but also including Persons with Disabilities;

Water and Sanitation;

Social Protection for those who cannot work;

Persons with Disabilities inclusion & access;

Protection against Crime and Violence;

The final priorities are:

Food that is locally produced, affordable & nutritious;

Environmental Management relating to natural resource exploitation;

Secured **Land Rights**;

Reconciliation, but noting that addressing the above priorities creates the environment in which reconciliation becomes possible and sustainable.

Although different focus groups have varied priorities, the overall shared pattern is similar, once added across the focus groups and consistent with a number of consultations over the past year. Counties that are further from Monrovia tend to prioritise roads, but they are also counties with less access to schools and health centres as can be seen from the maps that follow. Montserrado, with its proximity to the capital, Monrovia, has relatively good access to health facilities and does not put better health care as a high priority. Despite its many, mostly private, schools, the county receives many pupils migrating from other counties for education, with at least 20,000 such girls⁴ and considers quality education as its top priority, particularly the need for quality public schools as one participant noted. Counties where there is mining and timber extraction and/or land conflict bring environmental management and community involvement and broader governance issues higher on their list of priorities. Lofa, a border county where inter-ethnic conflict and violence is always just below the surface, adds to these concerns the need for peacebuilding and reconciliation and controls over migration.

Goals

Many of the Focus Groups and Consultation Plenaries listed administrative strategies and targets, rather than Goals. There was difficulty in looking ahead and setting broad goals beyond either immediate concerns for current corrective measures or aspirations for rapid development that across all sectors without any sense of sequencing or human and physical resource constraints. This lack of practical realism reflects recognised development failure against an over-ambitious time-frame. It also reflects a confusion between targets and goals and that these can be set above the levels of rights, yet to be defined, to a minimum level of outcome and of service. Some targets were less than universal, despite commitment to rights.

⁴ See UNICEF Situational Analysis of Girls & Women in Liberia 2012

Other targets recognised progressive realisation, with expectations for 2015 (or 2017 in the case of the Government's Agenda for Transformation) as well as targets for 2015 as in the national Vision 2030 and for most purposes assumed to be a time of reckoning for the post-2015 development agenda.

The following are illustrative Goals that fit with the Principles, dimensions and priorities expressed above (clear 5-year targets were provided by Grand Bassa):

- **Ensure improved quality education at all levels** - and legislate for compulsory education. This Goal was expressed with no sense of a universal right for all children and youth, if not adults, to a basic minimum of literacy and numeracy and the progressive realisation of rights to higher levels of educational outcomes by 2030. However, such issues were raised in plenary at the Validation exercise, but not resolved.
- **Ensure access to improved transport & road networks and to affordable clean energy**, which would need qualifying in targets.
- **ICT access for all** – although many groups reduced the goal to a target for a certain proportion of the population, which further risks continued marginalisation and exclusion, for which the consultation expressed strong aversion.
- **Employment opportunities for all** - with a focus on private sector concessions and skilled Liberians replacing expatriate employees;
- **Social protection for all who cannot work.**
- **Eradicate income poverty.**
- **Gender equality with quota system in public sector.**
- **Health, safe water & improved sanitation for all.**
- **Security for all.**
- **Nationwide reconciliation**, with a national vision.
- **Forests, wildlife and ecosystem managed for sustainability**, with controls over mining and timber operations and for the benefit of all. This is seen as a key to avoiding return to conflict.

Diagram 1: Population & Poverty Levels by County

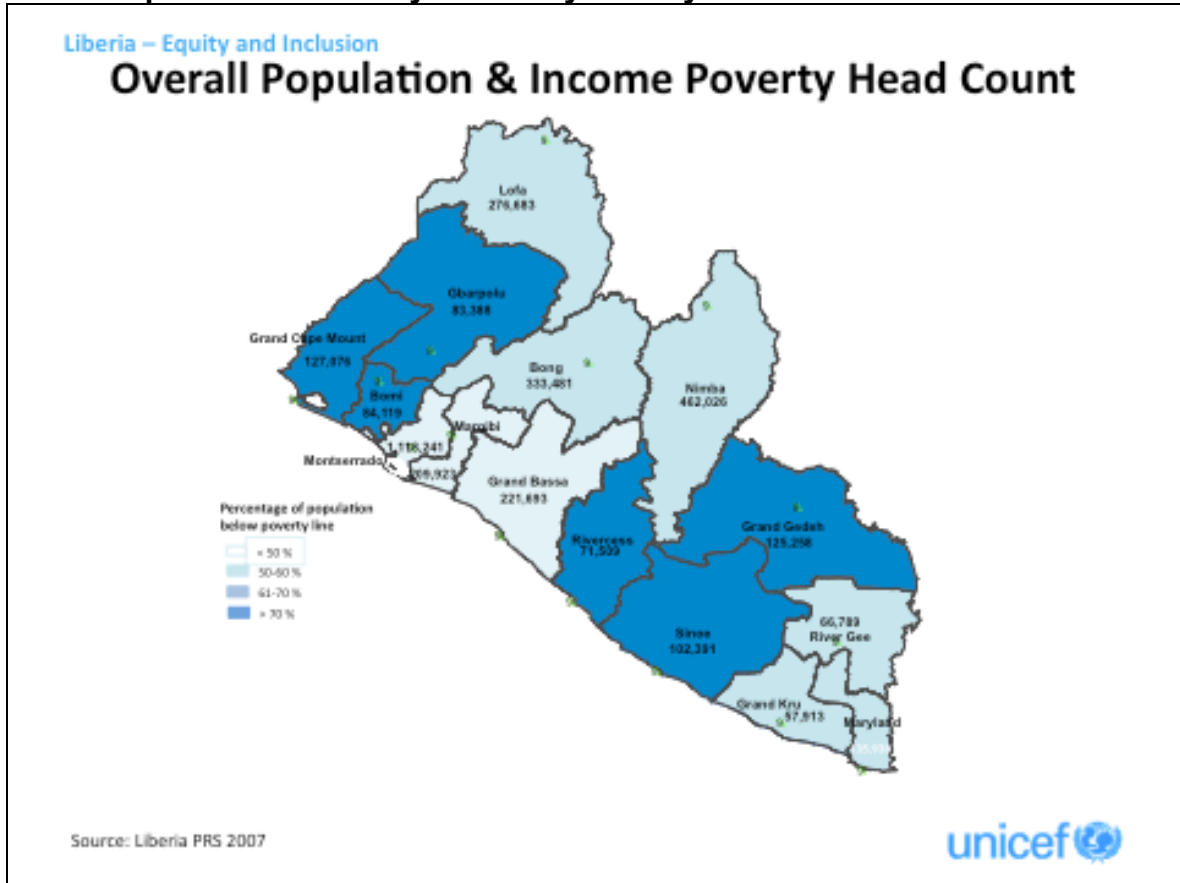
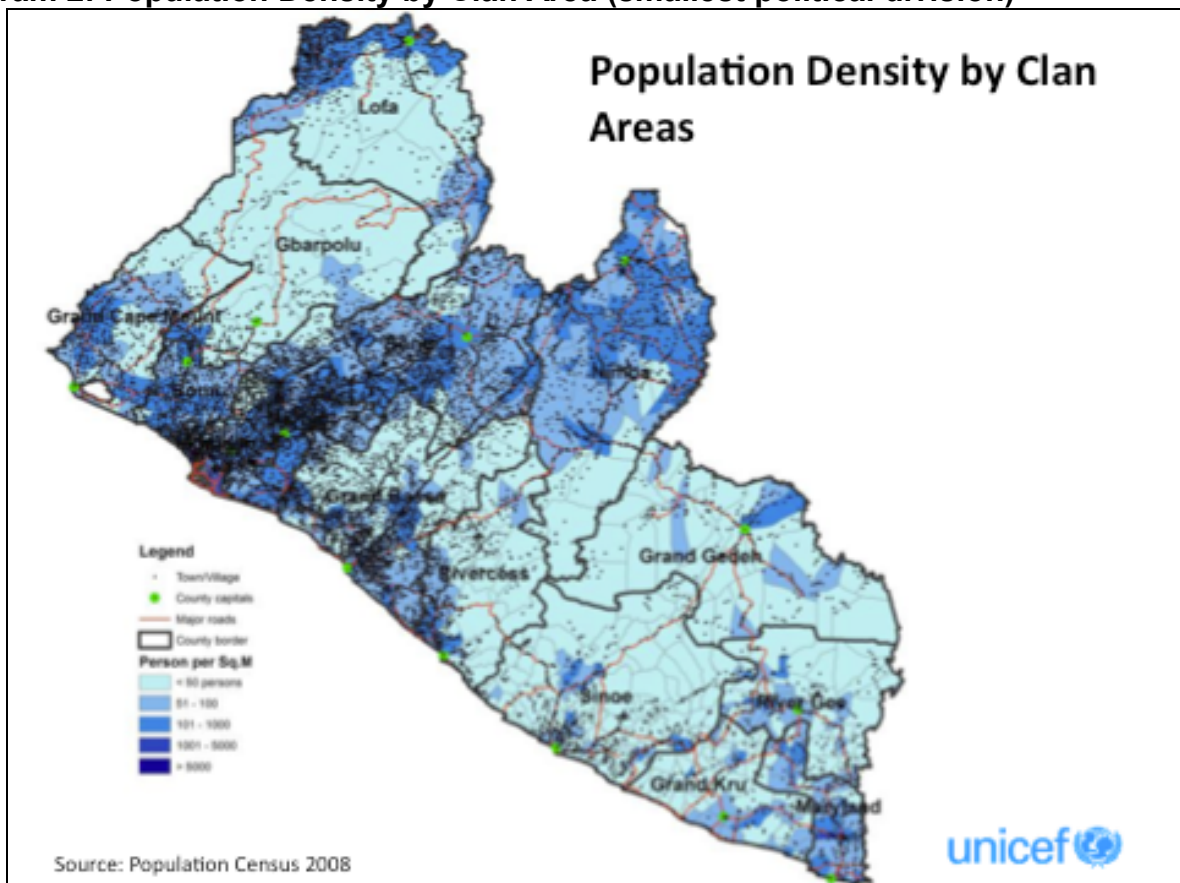


Diagram 2: Population Density by Clan Area (smallest political division)



Section C: Detail

Introduction:

Background to Post-2015 Consultations in Liberia

Originally there was minimal African input to the MDGs. Since 2000, Africa has also set its own Goals - e.g. Maputo Protocol to the ACHPR⁵ on the Rights of Women in Africa that promotes gender equality; African Charter on the Rights & Welfare of the Child; AU Social Policy Framework for Africa (2008/09) & its Implementation Strategy (2010) committing AU to define appropriate goals & targets that align with the Social Policy Framework and will enable Member States to monitor progress after 2015 and ensure accountability from all development partners. For monitoring of progress on Africa's Goals, the African Union is committed to use of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); the African Gender & Development Index (AGDI); and the institutions of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD); together with annual reviews of economic & social progress led by AU, ECA and AfDB.

Africa has also been increasingly involved in the Aid Effectiveness Agenda – as developed in Paris, Accra and Busan with commitment to: *Ownership; Alignment; Harmonisation; Managing for Results; Mutual Accountability*. Busan added a **New Deal** for Engagement in Fragile States focusing on: *Legitimate Politics; Security; Justice; Economic Foundations; Revenue & Services* and **Liberia has been at the heart of developing this agenda** & its related Fragility Assessment. Liberia is a pilot state and has carried out a Fragility Assessment against the 5 Peace-building & State-building Goals agreed for fragile states to focus on:

PSG 1: Legitimate Politics – Foster Inclusive Political Settlements and Conflict Resolution

PSG 2: Security – Establish and Strengthen People's Security

PSG 3: Justice – Address Injustices and Increase People's Access to Justice

PSG 4: Economic Foundations – Generate Employment and Improve Livelihoods

PSG 5: Revenue and Services – Manage Revenue and Building Capacity for Accurate and Fair Service Delivery. The assessment shows just how fragile Liberia is despite progress on many fronts, particularly at the macro-economic and policy levels, from a low base at the end of conflict and the time of the first democratic elections held in 2005.

Liberia is also involved in the Post-2015 Agenda through consultations initiated by the UN Task Team and through the UNSG High Level Panel where the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, co-chairs the HLP. It has also hosted CSO and Disability Rights African regional and Liberian national consultations, which have fed into the **HLP meeting in Jan 2013 in Monrovia, Liberia**. The Task Team initiated over 50 country, including Liberia for the current consultations for which this report is made, and regional, including Africa, consultations, and 9 **Thematic events & on-line consultations** (e.g. on Inequality), including **on Conflict & Fragility in Monrovia Nov 2012**.

Liberia Situation and Vision

Liberia completed its first 5-year Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2011, which set the institutional and policy foundations for action and implementation of a strong development

⁵ The African Charter on Human & Peoples' Rights

agenda. The second democratic elections were held on schedule in 2011 and President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected for her second term. It has, through consultations, set out an ambitious agenda to become a middle-income country by 2030. The Vision 2030 has a Statement of “One People, One Nation, United for Peace and Sustainable Development” with the following elements: Economically Prosperous People; Politically Democratic; Environmentally, a beautiful & flourishing country; Culturally vibrant; Technologically innovative. In addition, Liberia, after wide consultation, has set out “A Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (2012 – 2030) (a “Roadmap to Reconciliation”). At the same time, Liberia has developed, through consultation, its second Poverty Reduction Strategy, an Agenda for Transformation 2012-2017 (AfT) with five pillars:

Peace, Security And Rule Of Law	Economic Transformation	Human Development	Governance and Public Institutions	Cross-cutting Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Security •Peace and Reconciliation •Justice and Rule of Law •Judicial Reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Private Sector Development •Macro-Economic Issues (Fiscal & Monetary •Infrastructure (Power, Ports, Roads, ICT, etc) •Agriculture and Food Security (Including Fishery) •Forestry (Development & Protection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Education (Early Child Development, Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, TVET, Adult Education) •Health & Social Welfare •Social Protection •Water & Sanitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Political Governance (Constitution, Decentralization, History) •Public Sector Modernization (Reform) •Economic Governance •Integrity (Transparency & Accountability) •Natural Resource Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gender Equality •Human Rights •People with Disabilities •HIV & AIDS

The Liberia 2012 MDG Review concludes that Liberia will only achieve three of the 8 MDGs: MDG-3 to promote gender equality and empower women; MDG-6 regarding combating HIV & AIDS and possibly reversing the incidence of malaria; and MDG-8 on developing a global partnership on development. In addition it may halve the proportion of people living in extreme hunger, but not halving the proportion of people living below US\$1.25 per day. The report highlights the continuing high level of maternal mortality at 770 per 100,000 live births. With a life-time fertility rate of 5.2, this means that the lifetime chances of a woman dying giving birth is 1 in 25, or 150 times as great as for a woman in the developed world. For this reason, Liberia is making “Improving Maternal Health” its theme for this year.

The Post-2015 Liberia Consultations

CSO and disability rights consultations

Liberian civil society and Liberian disability rights groups have both engaged in consultations that fed in to the High Level Panel meeting in Monrovia in Jan 2013, both directly and through African regional representation. The civil society consultations brought together in Oct 2012 representatives of CSOs from across all the 15 Counties of Liberia, representing Women; Youth & Student groups; Trade Unions; Media; Legal Practitioners; Public and Private Institutions; Persons with Disabilities; grass-roots community-based and international organisations. Their conclusions⁶ were that the Post-2015 agenda should be community-driven with ordinary citizens at the centre of national development; with differentiated responsibility recognising countries’ different capacities and development challenges; promoting a just and sustainable world based on global justice and equality; upholding human

⁶ YOCADS Presentation at Validation Consultation 25th March 2013.

rights; addressing systemic issues in the global order; and be nationally and locally adaptable, but global.

Liberian Persons with Disabilities in their consultations highlighted the preponderance of persons with disabilities among those living below the poverty line and that they face discrimination and other barriers to participation in society and access to basic services, with greater vulnerability in situations of conflict. Persons with Disabilities are excluded and invisible in the MDGs and remain absent in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MDGs. The principles of equality and non-discrimination should be pursued across the framework. They desired to see the post-2015 development framework becoming inclusive of persons with disabilities and compliant with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with specific indicators within each goal, covering inclusive housing and social services and a safe and healthy living environment for all, including equitable access to health services and financial risk protection for all. They called for data disaggregated by upper and lower wealth quintile and other categories of differentiation, including disability, with M&E involving civil society monitoring⁷.

The Liberia Disability Brief made recommendations to the UN High Level Panel to ensure the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in the development and negotiation of the framework; to include one goal on healthcare accessible to all that is able to recognise and treat disabling conditions; to gather data and monitor persons with disabilities' access to services and development outcomes, including specific targets on disability across all development goals; clear focus on equality, equity and non-discrimination; and to ensure the most excluded children, including those with disabilities, are given a quality education⁸. The 2012 consultations on Peacebuilding & Education found that “there were particularly low levels of respect for those with disabilities – the validation workshop suggested implementing inclusive education that cultivates respect for diversity and a culture of mutual respect, beginning with values education through Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD) ... Respondents confirmed that people with disabilities are not seen as equals and there is a need to start including them in systems and for behaviour change”⁹.

As part of the Busan New Deal, the draft Liberia Fragility Assessment¹⁰ recognised:

- Impact of the 14 year civil war in which possibly 270,000 were killed in a nation of 3.5m, with 75% describing themselves as victims – and with sporadic violence since then.
- Factors behind conflict:
 - Contestations over land
 - Youth unemployment & disempowerment
 - Mismanagement of natural resources
 - Fractured relationship between state and citizen, relating to historical disenfranchisement
 - Lack of a national vision
 - Regional dynamics
- It noted that the PRS-1 Assessment found as “fully satisfactory”:
 - Maintenance of macro-economic stability with low inflation
 - Maintenance of a balanced budget

⁷ See CAB 2013.

⁸ See Disability Brief 2013.

⁹ See UNICEF Consultation Report, Sep 2012.

¹⁰ See Liberia Fragility Assessment 2012

- Reduction in external debt

”partially satisfactory”

- Health; water & sanitation; business and private sector; civil service reform

“marginally positive”

- Transition of security to Liberian agencies; delivery of basic education; improvement of roads; environmental concerns; labour protection; crime prevention

“unsatisfactory”

- Electric power progress; prompt delivery of justice; decentralization

The PRS-2 Agenda for Transformation (AfT) will move from frameworks to action & to a focus on results.

Liberia Fragility Assessment 2012

The Fragility Assessment went on to identify continuing problems with Justice, particularly lack of access to judicial processes and inefficiency and corruption in the system. While the economic foundations showed strong macro management of the budget and swift action to control rice prices in the recent global food price rise, there was stalled progress on the mezzo and micro levels. Less than 8% of the road network is paved and cost of transport is high with limited public provision. There are continued low levels of employment and the extractive industries generate revenue, but not jobs. 37% are employed, of which 68% are in the informal economy without regular wages. Approximately 64% of Liberians live below \$1 per day, but perceptions of living in poverty reduced from 51% in 2007 to 37% in 2010. 500,000 junior secondary pupils are expected to graduate over the next 5-10 years, but few jobs are being generated and youth are not being prepared for the job market. It noted that women’s rights are seen by many men as reducing men’s rights in a zero-sum game. There is a lack of clarity in land ownership and regarding concession holders. The informal forestry sector is unregulated and mineral extraction regulation is not enforced. Liberia has made positive progress on the revenue and services side, with HIPC debt relief of \$4.9billion. The GDP growth rate has averaged 7% between 2006-2010. There are inadequate performance incentives and low salaries for the civil service, which has been down-sized from 45,000 to 35,000 while increasing health workers from 5,000 to 8,000 over the same period. But there is lack of pressure for anti-corruption reform, with bribes paid to access some services. Service delivery depends largely on where one lives, with staggering gaps for those in remote or marginal locations (as is evident in the maps and diagrams below). There is a desire for more educational services and vocational training and for traditional values to be included in the curriculum; 60% of students are over-age learners with lack of available alternative education; most primary-aged children remain out of school. 45% of women and 25% of men have no education.

Diagram 3: Access to Healthcare

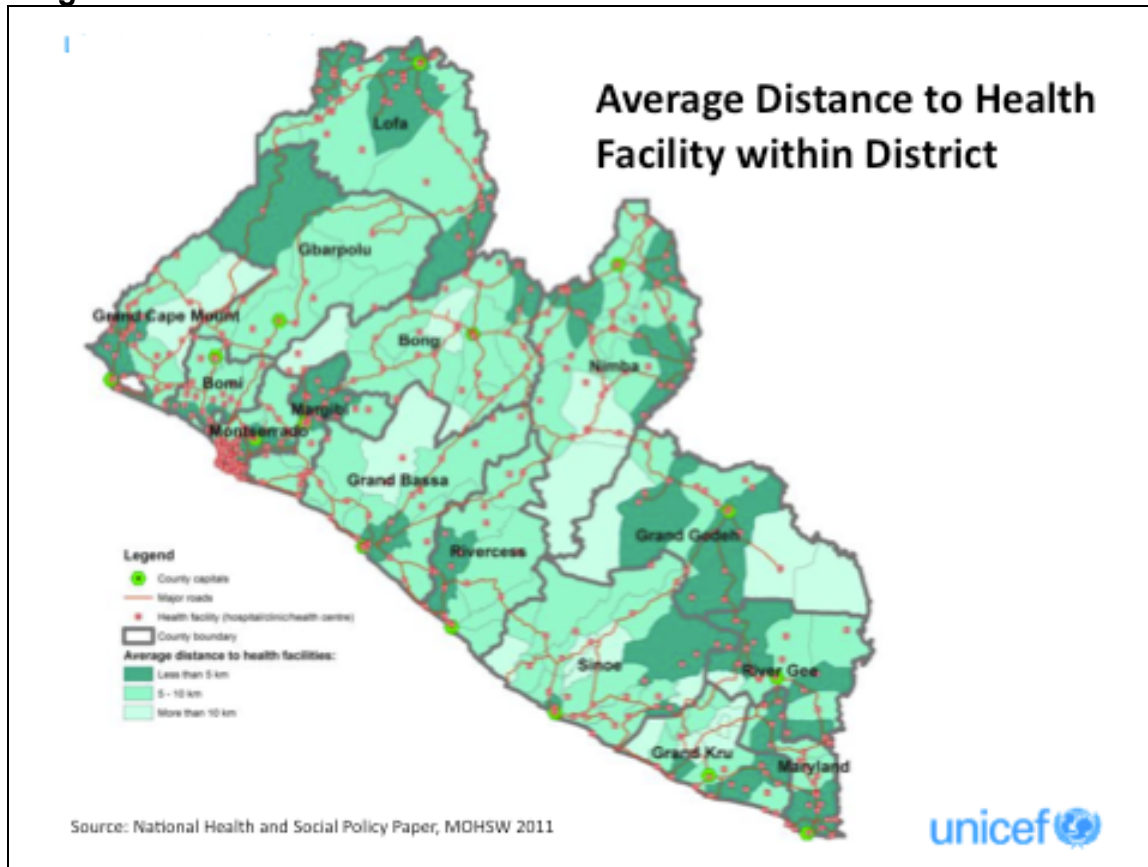


Diagram 4: Maternal Health Inequality

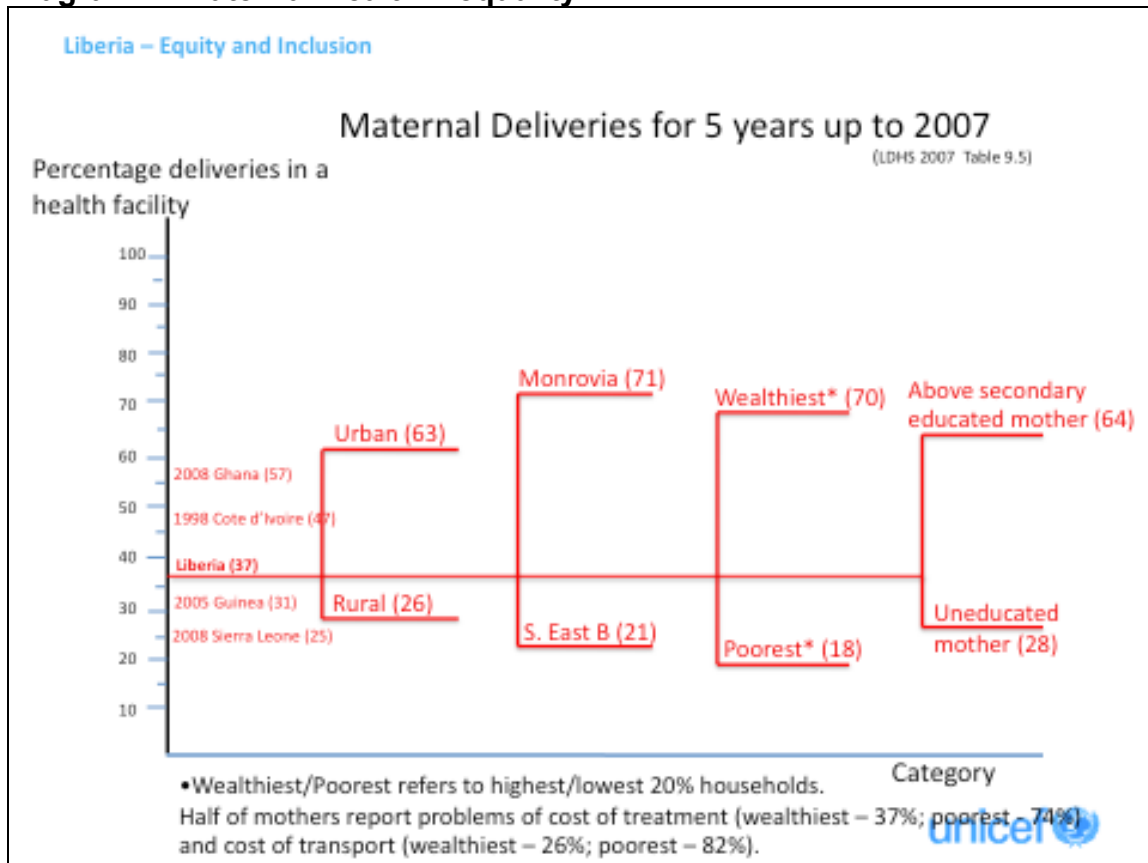


Diagram 5: Child Health Inequality – infant mortality

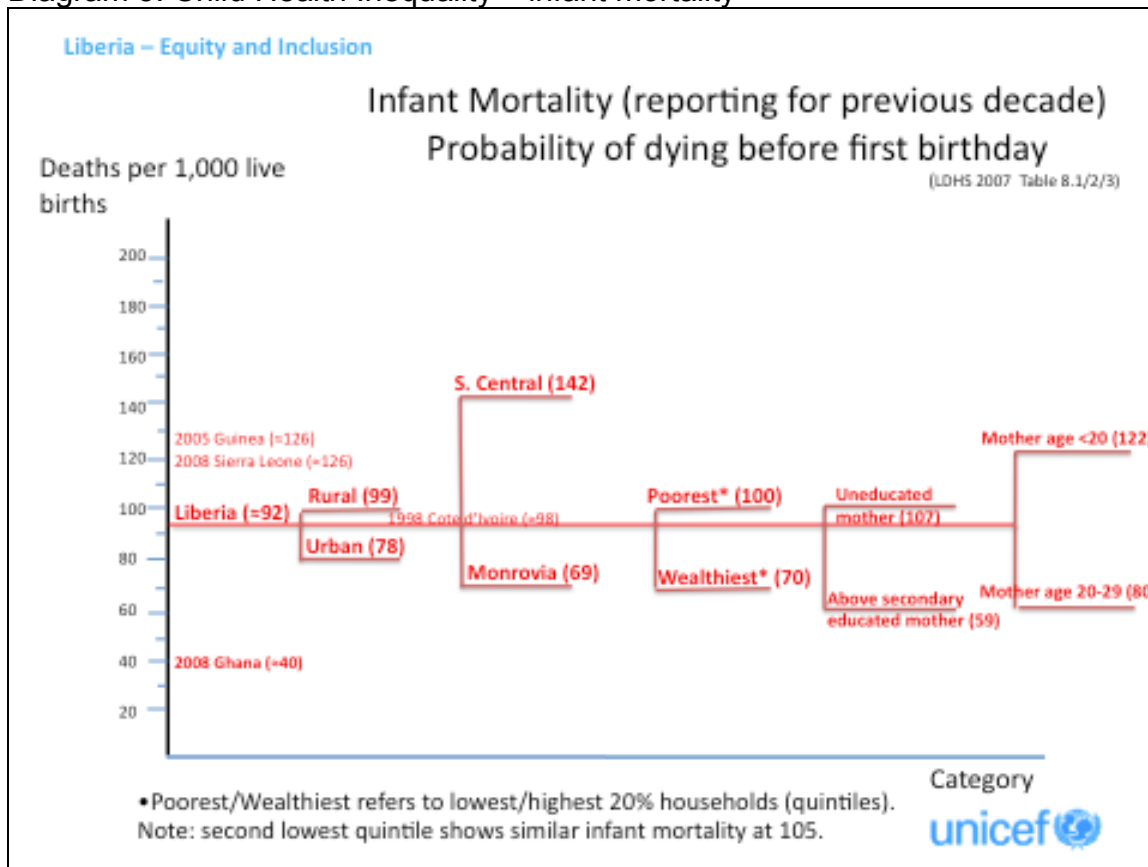


Diagram 6: Road & Mobile Connectivity by Topographical Area

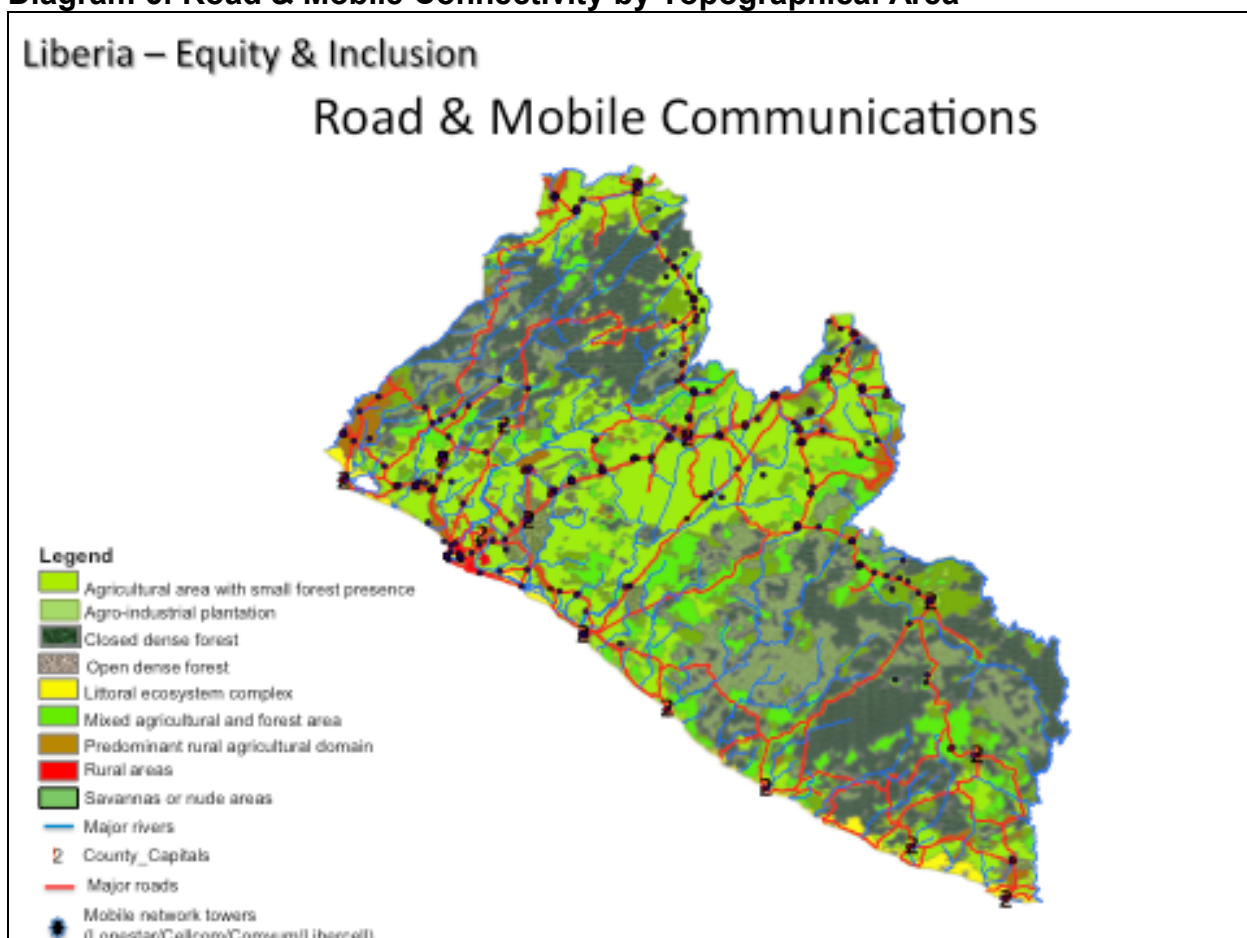


Diagram 7: Primary School Distribution against Population Density

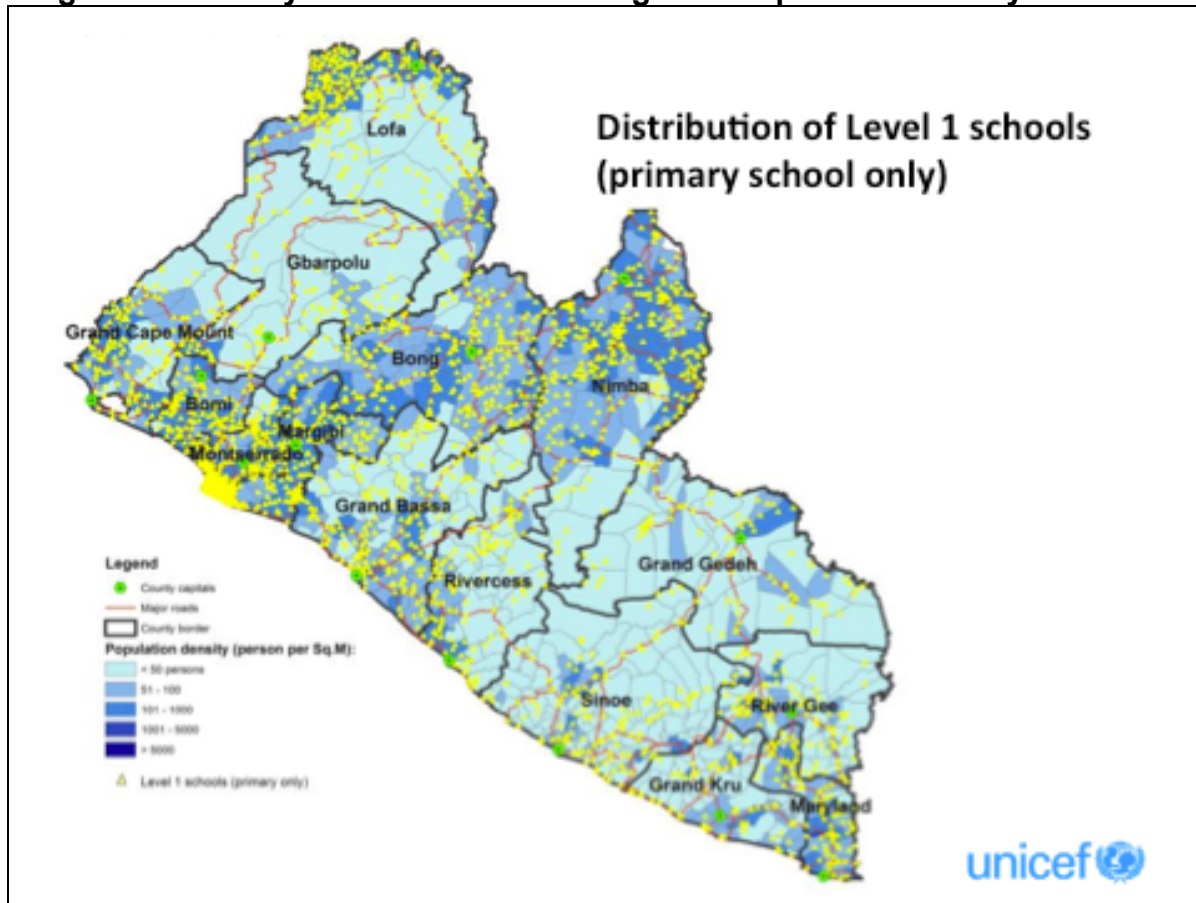
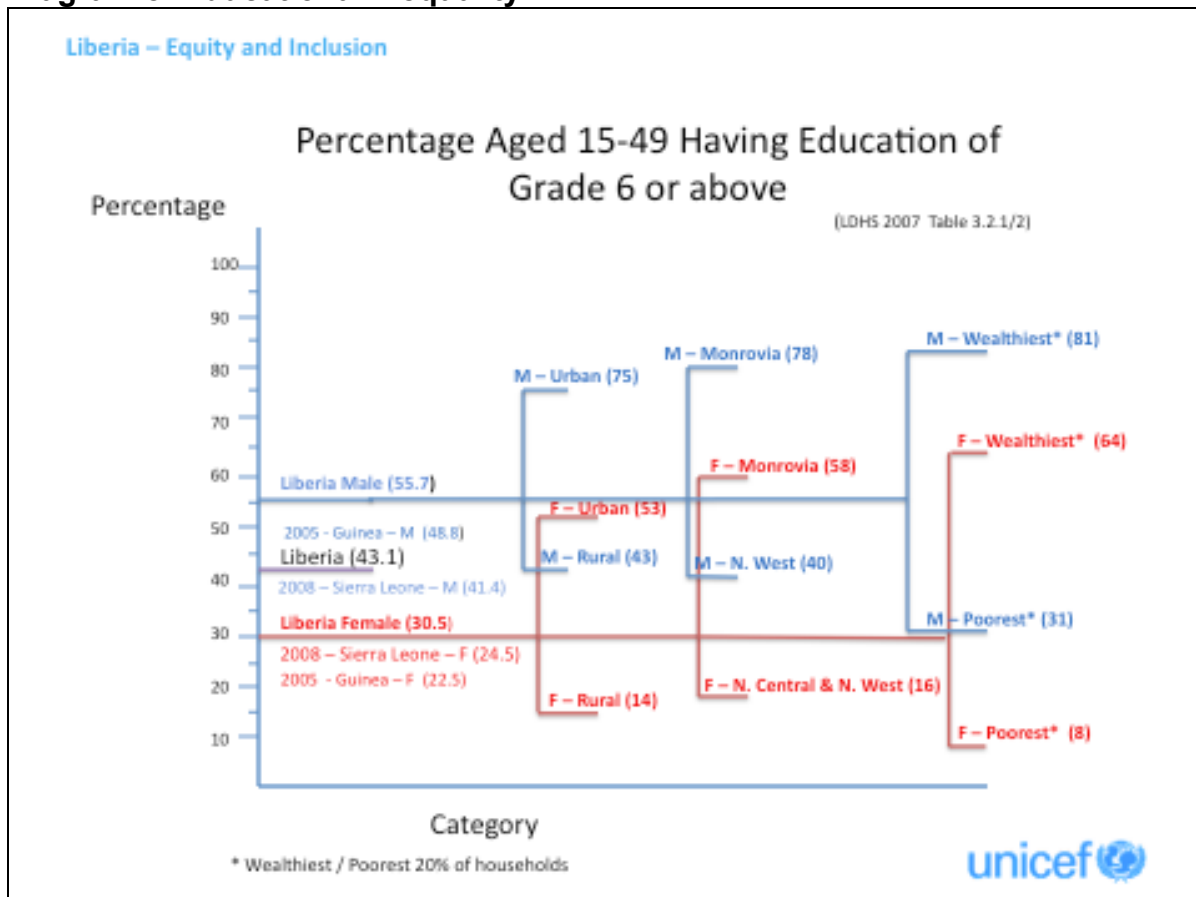


Diagram 8: Educational Inequality



Liberia MDG Progress 2012

The Liberia 2012 MDG Progress Review¹¹ has shown significant progress in a number of areas since 2001/2002, but targets are set by comparison to more recent 2001/2002 baselines, rather than the usual 1990 baselines just as 14 years of conflict were starting:

MDG Status at a Glance (from Liberia MDG Review 2012)				
Indicator	Base 2001/2002 ¹²	Current	Target	Achieve
Goal 1: ERADICATE EXTREME HUNGER AND POVERTY				Unlikely
Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day	76.2(2001)	56.3	38.1	Off track
Poverty gap ratio	24.4(2007)	21	12.2	Off track
Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	8.78(2007)		4.39	
Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	6.8(2001)	19.2	3.4	Off track
Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	70(1997)	41	35	On track
Goal 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION				Unlikely
Net enrollment ratio primary education	0.35(2001)	0.44	1	Off track
Primary completion rates	31.2(2001)	92	80.6	On track
Literacy rates of 15-24 year olds	34.7(2001)	79.3	80	On track
Goal 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN				Likely
Ratio of girls to boys in Primary Education	0.69(2002)	0.88	1	On track
Ratio of girls to boys in Secondary Education	0.69(2002)	0.78	1	On track
Ratio of girls to boys in Tertiary Education	0.38(2002)	0.59	1	On track
Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	11.4(2002)	47	50	On track
Proportion of seats held by women in national legislature	11.1(2002)	12.5	25	Off track
Goal 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY				Unlikely
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	194(1999)	103	64	On track
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	117(1999)	73.6	39	On track
Proportion of 1-year old immunized against measles	69(1999)	66.1	100	Off track
Goal 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH				Unlikely
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 births)	578(1999)	770 ¹³	145	Off track
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	89.1(1999)	79.2	100	Off track
Adolescent birth rate (percent)		141		Off track
Goal 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES				Likely
HIV prevalence among adults (15-49) (percent)	1.5(2007)	1.5	0.75	Off track
HIV prevalence among pregnant women (15-49) (percent)	12.9(2000)	2.6	2.0	On track
Condom use as contraceptive prevalence rate (percent)	16.8(1999)	25.2	50.4	Off track
Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (percent)	23.5(2007)	23.5	70	Off track

¹¹ See Liberia MDG Review 2012.

¹² While the base year for Goal 1 is predominantly 2001/2002, the proportion on dietary minimum consumption started from 1997.

¹³ WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World Bank Estimate of Trends in Mortality, p.34

Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs	19(2009)	27	62.1	Off track
Prevalence rates associated with malaria (incidents per 100,000)	56900(2000)	36404.7		On track
Death rates associated with malaria (deaths per 100,000)		54		
Prevalence rates associated with tuberculosis (incidents per 100,000)		282	141	
Death rates associated with tuberculosis (deaths per 100,000)		62	31	
Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (percent)		88	90	
Goal 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY				Unlikely
Proportion of land covered by forest (percent)	59(2007)	59		On track
Proportion of people with sustainable access to improved water sources (percent)	26(2001)	73.9	63	On track
Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation (percent)	36.3(2001)	10.4	67.9	Off track
Goal 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT				Likely
Public sector external debt outstanding (medium and long term) incl. arrears (\$billions)	4.7	0.238		Achieved
Public sector external debt outstanding incl. arrears percent of GDP	639.6	20.6		Achieved
Public sector external debt outstanding incl. arrears of Exports				
External public debt services charges percent of GDP		0.19		
Aid per capita (current US\$)	101.2	115.2		
Internet users (per 100 people)	0	2.9		
Mobile cellular subscription (per 100 people)	17	57		

In Jan 2013, ODI undertook for the UN High Level Panel a MY World Survey in Liberia, with a sample of just over 2,000 people, sampled to reflect the whole population. A national survey that will cover 6,200 is proposed for later in 2013. This is part of a global survey programme utilizing a range of methodologies: online, offline and SMS. Overall, the Jan 2013 MY World survey¹⁴ in Liberia ordered their priorities for the future they want to see as:

1. A good education
2. Better healthcare
3. Better transport and roads
4. Better job opportunities
5. Access to clean water and sanitation
6. Phone and internet access
7. Affordable and nutritious food
8. Honest and responsive government
9. Protection against crime and violence
10. Reliable energy at home

Young People put better transport & roads as their top priority and added:

- Support for people who can't work

¹⁴ See MY World Jan 2013.

Urban respondents added:

- Equality between Men & Women

In addition AfT consultations led to adding for the Post-2015 agenda consultations:

- Improved Environmental Management
- Monitoring

These priorities were used in the Post-2015 County Consultations as the starting point for determining priorities, but participants across the 15 Counties added others, which were then considered afresh in the Validation Consultation the following week. These were:

- Persons with Disabilities' inclusion & Access (including buildings)
- Secured land rights
- Maternal health
- Rural health
- Child health
- Women's economic empowerment
- Reconciliation

County Consultations:

These were held in each of the 15 Counties of Liberia, mostly led by the County Development Officers (CDOs), supported by the Assistant Superintendent (Development) and by UNMIL staff based at the county level, particularly the County Head of Field Offices and the Civil Affairs County Officer. The CDOs had attended a one-day briefing in Monrovia, led by the International and National Facilitators and the UNDP expert in the Strategy & Policy Unit, where background materials on the MDGs and Post-2015 Agenda process and Liberia's role in this process and the purpose of the Liberia consultations were shared. Staff from the Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs were also involved. Invitations had been issued for 65 participants in each county, with 6 representatives from each of the Districts in a County, comprising a traditional chief, an adult woman, an adult man, one youth, a child, and a Person with a Disability, with the aim of getting participation from more remote and marginalised communities rather than those from the County capital. In addition there should be 3 CSOs and 3 officials, with CSOs being increased where a County has less than 10 Districts. The Consultation Programme is attached in the Annexe.

A total of 980 participants were involved across the 15 Counties. 68% were male and 32% female overall, although in Nimba County just over half the participants were women. Children, youths and students under 25 years comprised 21% and older persons 79%, including elders 15%, officials 21% (with some traditional chiefs listing themselves as under the Ministry of Internal Affairs) and Persons with Disabilities 7%, although not all participants with disabilities were identified as such. A number of participants had no education, signing registration sheets with thumb-prints, coming from farming or market trading backgrounds (e.g. 9 in River Cess with no education and 9 in Bong). Several Zoes, leaders in the women's Sande societies, participated as well as male traditional chiefs. Two youths with disabilities were in Junior High School, despite being aged over 25. A few children were in lower primary, Grades 3 or 4. Focus Group discussions generally were based on the following: a Youth Group; a Women's Group; Traditional & Religious Leaders; an Officials Group; and, in some Counties, a Group with a high percentage of Persons with Disabilities. The Consultations were generally facilitated either by the CDO or by a UN staff member, with Rapporteurs recruited on site.

Validation Consultation - Monrovia:

The Validation Consultation took place 3 days later with representatives from the County Consultations travelling to Monrovia. Expected to be present were five or six from each County, representing the various focus groups and/or Districts, plus the CDOs. A total of just over 100 took part throughout the Validation Consultation. The Validation Consultation followed a morning launch of the 2013 Global Human Development Report and a presentation on the emerging issues from the 2012 validated Liberia MDG Report, followed by presentations on Liberia's Vision 2030, Liberia's CSO consultations and Liberia Women's CSO consultations on the Post-2015 Agenda. These were followed by a presentation of the findings from the previous week's County Consultations, with a focus on Principles and Dimensions of a Post-2015 Agenda and the priorities emerging from the County level.

The Validation Consultation then moved into five Focus Groups of Youth (26); Women (22); CSOs (18); Persons with Disabilities (12); Traditional Chiefs (8). In addition there were County and MoPEA officials (18) and some UN staff (9). Only a small minority were from the capital, Monrovia. Discussion began in Plenary, with animated discussion of key principles of rights and equity and redistribution and the differences between raising averages through improved outcomes at the top or through improved outcomes at the bottom or overall, maintaining the same differentials. Graphs of inequity in maternal health, child health and education were shown and discussed (see attached). The debate was contextualised by various participants and steadily an understanding of abstract principles and their application to the Liberia context emerged. It was recognised that it was not exactly a choice of either/or, but that one Principle could be Primary and another Complementary, but for some the choices offered a stark return to the past or a transformation for the future. There was then a public voting by show of hands on 4 pairs of Options relating to the key Principles of Equity, Right and Inclusion (see Annex). The Focus Groups were tasked with producing their 10 top priorities and 3 major concerns. As these were being agreed, individuals were encouraged to vote on additions to the Dimensions, on the Priorities identified from the Counties and on the existing MDGs that should be kept/extended beyond 2015. The results are shown below. The Focus Groups then presented their Priorities and Concerns and the Facilitator summarised the voting on the Framework.

A strong view was expressed by ordinary Liberians from across the country that they are aware of the drivers of conflict and do not want to return to the unequal state prior to conflict and wish to move away from fragility towards stability. They believe that their views expressed here are of relevance to all fragile states or states where exclusion and inequality are high.

Process Constraints

Liberia was only included in February 2013 as one of the countries where community consultations would be held on the Post-2015 agenda. The UN Country Team moved quickly to make arrangements, led by UNDP Strategy & Policy Unit and a Task Team, and to recruit an International and a National Consultant to facilitate the process. Delays in obtaining a Visa resulted in the International Consultant arriving on the weekend before the Monday briefing of CDOs. Logistics for the CDOs and finance for the costs of each County Consultation were only transferred on the evening before the consultations. Given travel times to more distant counties on poor roads, several counties had to defer the consultation by one day at short notice. Problems with getting materials printed occurred in many counties despite close collaboration between UNMIL and County staff and, for some, lack of power or projectors hampered communications in the consultation. Such problems are part of the everyday reality of poor communications and infrastructure in Liberia. That all 15 Counties held a day's consultation with a cross-section of participants from every corner of the county – and of the country – is testimony to the patience, resilience and professionalism of staff working under

considerable constraints. Yet, out of the diversity of conditions, a clear pattern of views has emerged. County reports were quickly drafted and sent to the Facilitator for collation for the Validation Consultation 3 days later.

3. Towards Defining a Vision for the World:

Agenda Principles – *and their relationship to Conflict & Fragility*

Principles:

The following principles were strongly recommended in the counties and endorsed respectively by between two-thirds and 90% at the National Validation.

There was heated discussion as people grappled with the differences between raising overall national averages as in many of the existing MDGs, which could variously be achieved by raising outcomes for those already better off, increasing inequitable outcomes while raising the average; or through evenly distributed raising of standards, with the same degree of inequity as at present; or by focusing on those with the poorest outcomes. Once understood, Liberians are adamant that the agenda must focus on those with the worst outcomes, reducing inequalities in outcomes, which would at the same time raise averages. This position must be taken to ensure that there is not a return to the conditions prior to conflict of gross socio-economic and political marginalisation and exclusion. This **focus on addressing inequality** was portrayed in the consultations as a political necessity for Liberia. The desire, where possible, to tie this into Constitutional rights, reflects a commitment to a new order of inclusion and equity.

Equity that focuses on those who are marginalized, such that no-one falls below a minimum standard to be set nationally by Liberians (All counties), eliminating extreme poverty (Margibi) and providing equality of opportunity for all (All counties); but a minority of participants are concerned to ensure that average outcomes should also rise (e.g. Margibi youth; 10% in Montserrado; 70% in Maryland) and at the same time to build on existing, but unequal, human capital foundations (Grand Cape Mount) – a desire for equality of opportunity AND better services (Grand Kru).

Rights that are ideally enshrined in the Constitution, where appropriate, such as the right for all to acquire basic literacy and numeracy or to give birth in a health facility (All, but less strongly in Montserrado), including right to equal opportunity for all (River Gee; Grand Gedeh) and women's inheritance rights (Sinoe). These should be "in the law, rather than on paper" (Traditional Chief). "Everyone should have the right to growth and life" (Participant in Grand Kru).

Inclusion ensuring inclusive economic growth (All counties), which may involve use of administrative guidelines of what can be expected to be government's responsibilities for progressive realization of further development, such as are expressed in the national Poverty Reduction Strategy (2012-2017) Agenda for Transformation (e.g. Montserrado; GCM). A few preferred to maximise national GDP (Grand Cape Mount), but when this was explained at the Validation in terms of "Do you want a house that has so much money, but you don't know who owns it; OR - Do you want a house where everyone has their own share of that money?", the view shifted forcefully to "inclusive growth".

There were strongly expressed views, not only by Persons with Disabilities, but also by traditional chiefs and women and others, that this **inclusion principle must be explicitly qualified by reference to Persons with Disabilities**, who must be included in all policy commitments (Bong; Lofa; Montserrado; River Gee; Grand Gedeh) and that their rights and

those of women, children and minorities should be protected and promoted with special measures (Grand Kru).

BUT a note of scepticism ... Will these principles really be included in global and national plans? (Grand Kru).

Dimensions

The following Dimensions for the post-2015 agenda received generally strong endorsement:

Inclusive social development, but noting that there should be reference to including Persons with Disabilities through responsive government. One county referred to support for Persons with Disabilities in food production/processing (Lofa) and there were wider references to including marginalised and vulnerable persons.

Inclusive economic development, backed by investment to give all opportunity through strengthened capacities & empowerment to engage in the economy (e.g. Lofa youth), including those in rural communities (Maryland). There were also a number of counties that looked to include a focus on women's economic empowerment.

Environmental sustainability, but with specific reference to including forest management and controls on illegal mining/timber extraction (River Gee) and citizens rights to benefit from natural resources (Margibi; Lofa) requiring reform of concession legislation (Lofa; Nimba). Although these are local and national issues, mentioned in other counties also, there was expressed a view that the governance of mineral and natural resource extraction and export was of wide significance across many countries in Africa and that this needs to be explicit.

Peace & security needs also to refer to reconciliation (River Cess; Lofa) and the rule of law – more to be done to enable people to believe in “one people, one Liberia” (Grand Kru). These issues of national identity and inclusion and the nature of citizen-state compact and horizontal inequalities are of wider significance than for Liberia only.

Additional Dimensions to be added:

Good governance, in particular, ensuring redistribution, access to information, consultation, ending discrimination & corruption (Bong; Margibi, Nimba), decentralisation (Maryland), independent audits (River Gee; Grand Gedeh), monitoring involving civil society (Grand Bassa; Grand Kru) and protecting whistle-blowers (River Gee) with consultations, transparency & accountability (River Cess). Participants recognised the importance of adding Good Governance as a fundamental dimension as it attracts investors and development partners and creates an environment for peace & stability (Lofa). This related to the concern for better governance of natural resources and for local community involvement in concession agreements (Lofa), which it was noted the new Kenya Constitution now gave. A concern was expressed that “poor people do not have a say in governance and do not know how decisions are made about their lives” (Grand Kru). Clear goals and targets should be set for all ministries represented in the counties so that they can be monitored and evaluated to ensure accountability, transparency and justice for all (Grand Bassa).

Maternal health needs emphasising (Margibi; Women's Focus Groups and see the voting on priorities and MDGs at the National Validation) generally. While some noted that limited health facilities threaten safe deliveries (Grand Kru), others referred to improving staffing and changing behaviours and traditions. A presentation on Liberia 2012 MDG Report noted that

“Improving Maternal Health” will be Liberia’s theme for this year and that bottlenecks are human resources for health, poor basic infrastructure, weak supply chain management system, social and cultural factors, finance, weak monitoring and evaluation. It was recognised that women in Africa are 100 times as likely as women in developed countries to die giving birth – and 150 times as likely to die giving birth in Liberia¹⁵. This is a shocking statistic, which warrants extending the Maternal Health MDG 5. However, maternal health can only change as a result of a range of transformations of political will, good governance in the health system, changed social norms at community and household level, improved infrastructure in terms of roads, transport and sustainable local energy, and financial commitments. It is both an outcome for women, but also affecting households and particularly children, and it is an indicator of systemic failure or transformation in the health system and society. These warrant raising it to the higher level of a self-standing dimension as well as a goal.

Gender dimensions

Besides Maternal Health, participants raised the need for overall gender equality, with men and women having equal opportunities and equal roles and representation across society, and to address women’s economic empowerment, inheritance and land rights; harmful practices and violence against women and girls, with gender mainstreaming across the Goals. More detail is given below.

Affirming the Principles

While the Principles should inform the Post-2015 Framework, they should be domesticated in revision of the Constitution and through commitment by government to minimum levels and coverage of service provision.

Problems of implementation in practice

The priorities offered here provide no schedule for sequencing of investments for maximum impact, but the priorities of human development, particularly investment in education and maternal health, and infrastructure, particularly roads and energy, suggest that early commitment to these would enable private sector investment to accelerate development thereafter.

Neglected principles

The emphasis on inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and of the rights of women needs to be added.

Threats & Barriers

Land rights and expropriation from indigenous residents is a recurring theme that also threatens future stability in many countries, not just Liberia (Bong; River Gee; Maryland; Grand Bassa) and there is demand for reform of concession agreements that include local communities both in benefits and terms of operation (e.g. Grand Bassa; Lofa). Capacity constraints, particularly health staff and teachers and their incentives to work in remoter areas (e.g. Bomi; Lofa; Sinoe), must be addressed if Liberia is to achieve ambitious Goals based on equity, rights and inclusion. Attitudes and behaviours must be changed, particularly regarding lack of mutual respect and respect for traditions (GCM) and the removal of discrimination &

¹⁵ Africa 1 in 39; Developed countries 1 in 3,800. Liberia 770 in 100,000, but with total fertility rate of 5.2 per F (DHS 2007), lifetime chances of death in giving birth are 5.2 x 770 in 100,000 = 1 in 25.

marginalisation (Margibi) towards care for Persons with Disabilities and for those with leprosy (GCM). The 2012 Peacebuilding & Education consultations suggested respect needs to be started with under-fives Early Childhood Care & Development programmes, an aspect of education raised in Grand Kru. With well-negotiated public-private partnerships, mobile coverage for the whole country could be achieved rapidly and far more quickly and at less cost than roads (River Cess noted a comparison here), but some saw this as not becoming universal coverage by 2030 (e.g. Maryland; Nimba), while others were more ambitious (Lofa; Sinoe). The youth in particular emphasised the need for vocational training in order to have the skills to take jobs and address the skills gap (Bomi; River Cess; River Gee; Grand Gedeh), while concessions need to commit to greater added-value for their exports (Grand Bassa; Margibi; Lofa). The lack of respect for African tradition and leaders undermines social cohesion and achievement of common goals, but there is a need for strong institutions, not powerful individuals (Sinoe). Migration is seen in Lofa as a threat that could be addressed by spreading industrial investment.

Neglected Core Dimensions

Dimensions on good governance, particularly transparency, accountability and participation, and on maternal health need to be included, as does reconciliation. The role of the private sector was raised as a partner for adding value to natural resource exports and supporting skills development and employment expansion, particularly for youth and women.

4. The Future We Want: Priority Issues and Goals:

Priorities voted for by Validation Consultation Participants, who did not put more than one of their 5 votes onto the same priority, resulting in related areas possibly having multiple votes:

Priority	National Validation	Votes	Category Total with multiple votes
1	Quality Education for all	51	51
2a	Infrastructure – roads & transport	47	75 (ave:25)
2b	Infrastructure – energy from renewable sources	13	
2c	Infrastructure – Phone & Internet Access	15	
3a	Better Health Care	29	98 (ave: 24.5)
3b	Child Health	27	
3c	Rural Health	22	
3d	Maternal Health	20	
4a	Women's Economic Empowerment	33	49 (ave:24.5)
4b	Equality between Men & Women	16	
5a	Honest & Responsive Government	39	41
5b	Monitoring, including communities in this	2	
6	Better Job Opportunities	33	
7	Access to Clean Water & Sanitation	26	
8	Social Protection – support for those who cannot work	26	
9	Persons with Disabilities' inclusion & access (including to buildings)	24	
10	Protection against Crime & Violence (Peace & Security)	20	
11	Affordable & Nutritious Food	13	
12	Improved Environmental Management	12	
13	Secured land rights	13	
14	Reconciliation	10	

Focus Groups and some County Examples

Priority	National Validation: Women's Focus Group	Priority	National Validation: Youth Focus Group
1	Maternal Health	1	Youth Empowerment
2	Gender Equality & Women's Economic Empowerment	2	Good Health Care
3	Roads & Transport	3	College & Vocational Education
4	50% Quota for Women in all aspects of Government	4	Good Road Network
5	End Violence against Women & Girls	5	Water & Sanitation
6	Education	6	Scholarships for International Study
7	Land Rights	7	Equal Participation for All
8	Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger	8	Reduction in the Presidential & Senatorial Tenure
9	Revise & ensure stringent measures on drugs & substance abuse	9	Promoting Youth Transition to Decent Work
10	Equality for All	10	Promoting Youth Participation within Government

Priority	National Validation: Traditional Leaders Focus Group	Priority	National Validation: Persons with Disabilities' Focus Group <i>To achieve inclusive social and economic development:</i>
1	Traditional Chiefs to be empowered to form part of national decision-making	1	Inclusive education for all
2	Paved roads to connect all chiefdoms	2	Equal Opportunity for employment and accessibility in the work place
3	Ageing & Elderly should be provided with social protection and care	3	Inclusive development programme
4	All people have access to quality & useful education, including Junior College in every District	4	Health Care
5	All people have access to quality & affordable health care services in every district	5	Equality & Non-discrimination
6	Increased public & government support to traditional farmers so that countries and peoples will feed themselves	6	Accessible infrastructure development
7	All traditional heads and religious heads provided with a vehicle	7	Vocational Training programme
8	All harmful traditional practices abolished	8	Inclusive partnership programme
9	Improved access to justice for all – police depot and court in all chiefdoms	9	Affordable energy for all
10	All customary land must be protected and all national parks must be preserved by law	10	Access to Justice

Priority	National Validation: Civil Society Organisations Focus Group	Priority	Grand Bassa County Consultation
1	Management & equal distribution of natural resources revenue	1	Improve security
2	Enforcement of Basic Quality Education for all	2	Better education
3	Improved Infrastructure Development (Road Network)	3	Better healthcare
4	Better access to Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	4	Better roads network
5	Mechanised Farming	5	Better job opportunities
6	Inclusive Governance	6	Access to Clean Water & Sanitation

7	Job Creation	7	Improve judiciary system
8	Basic Health Care improvement	8	Reliable energy at home
9	Transparency & Accountability	9	Honest & responsive government
		10	Increase phone & internet access

Priority	Grand Cape Mount County Consultation	Priority	Margibi Elders in County Consultation
1	A Good Education	1	Honest, responsive & accountable government at all levels
2	Better Health Care	2	Economic governance (anti-corruption, public finance management, and land tenure)
3	Better Transport & Roads	3	Reliable energy at home – facilitate access to electricity
4	Access to Clean Water & Sanitation	4	Support for people who cannot work
5	Protection against Crimes & Violence	5	Access to Clean Water & Sanitation
6	Affordable & Nutritious Food	6	Environmental management & sustainability
7	Honest & Responsive Government	7	Introduction of a check & balance system on country and county leadership for transparency & accountability
8	Equality between Men & Women		Margibi Local Officials
9	Support to People who cannot work	1	Better transport & roads
10	Better Job Opportunities	2	Better health care, particularly maternal health
		3	Phone & internet access to any area of the country

Priority	Priorities of 5 Counties combined: Gbarpolu; Grand Bassa; Grand Cape Mount; Margibi; Montserrado
1	Education
2	Roads
3	Health
4=	Access to Clean Water & Sanitation
4=	Protection against Crimes & Violence
6=	Energy
6=	Jobs
8	Good Governance
9	Phone & Internet Access
10	Equality between men & women

Our Priorities

1. Quality Education

(i) national rationale

Foundation for nation building (River Cess); Producing disciplined citizens capable of managing families, communities & the nation (Grand Gedeh); pre-condition for development and growth (GCM); prepares future leaders (Gbarpolu); enables self-empowerment (Maryland); good education in every county enables youth to remain in their county of origin (Sinoe)

(ii) key threats

Unprincipled/corrupt & incompetent teachers (Grand Gedeh; Bong; Maryland); Poor incentives for teachers (Grand Bassa; Nimba; River Gee; Sinoe); Lack of qualified teachers (Gbarpolu; Grand Kru; Nimba; River Gee) and level of qualification low (Sinoe); Lack of financial support (Maryland); Lack of school buildings & facilities (River Gee); Lack of vocational institutions (Grand Kru; River Gee) in every county (Sinoe) or at least in every region (Lofa); Lack of Early Childhood Development services (Grand Kru); highly centralised system (River Gee)

(iii) broad goals and targets

Universal and compulsory cycle of quality education

(iv) delivery & monitoring

Clear and achievable goals in the education sector at county level that can be monitored by CSOs and donor partners (Grand Bassa); education from primary to tertiary should be free for next 20 years (Sinoe)

2. Infrastructure – roads, energy, ICT connectivity

(i) national rationale

Pre-condition for development (All) and good roads provide freedom of movement and lower prices & access to markets (Bong; Grand Gedeh; Sinoe); energy as pre-condition for investment (Grand Gedeh; Maryland; River Gee), reducing production costs (Gbarpolu; Sinoe); mobile phones as cheaper alternative to road travel for communication (Grand Kru; Gbarpolu)

(ii) key threats

Lack of resources for road rehabilitation & maintenance, which could be assisted by toll-gate charges for users (Grand Bassa); lack of transparency with corruption/kick-backs in awarding construction contracts (Grand Kru) and generally bad governance (Sinoe). Lack of capital and human resources to provide (hydro) electric power (Bong). Lack of political will to provide full mobile phone coverage across the country (Grand Kru) and lack of skills to do this (Sinoe); Lack of affordability of mobile phones by rural poor and lack of electricity for running phone/internet (Bong; Grand Bassa; River Gee), linked to lack of affordability if power was provided in rural areas (Grand Bassa); lack of electricity distribution grid (Gbarpolu)

(iii) broad goals and targets

All rural areas have affordable energy (Bong; Grand Gedeh)

All areas have mobile phone/internet access, with 85% population realising access (Maryland; Sinoe; but Bong sets 90% coverage)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

Need to decentralise road construction and accountability (Grand Kru) and equip each county with road-building machines (River Gee)

3. Health Care – Maternal, child & rural

(i) national rationale

Fundamental to development (GCM)

(ii) key threats

Availability of trained staff (Bong; Grand Bassa; Grand Gedeh; Maryland); lack of health facilities in hard to reach areas making long distances to access (Grand Bassa; Maryland; River Gee); Poor incentives to work in remote areas with poor roads and lack of accommodation (Grand Bassa; River Gee; Sinoe) – could be assisted with school fee payment incentives (Grand Bassa); poor management of funds (Grand Kru) and management inefficiency (Gbarpolu); lack of maternal waiting accommodation at health centres (River Gee)

(iii) broad goals and targets

Health facility within 5 miles of every household (River Gee)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

A wide range of professionals including traditional health workers (e.g. Grand Gedeh); clear goals and targets that CSOs can monitor (Grand Bassa);

4. Gender Equality & Women's Economic Empowerment

(i) national rationale

Focus on women's education as means of educating the next generation, warranting scholarships for women (Grand Bassa; River Gee)

(ii) key threats

Discrimination and traditional beliefs (Maryland); girls not being educated and parents using teenage girls to earn income for the household (River Gee)

(iii) broad goals and targets

Girls provided with scholarship for education and women provided with access to loans for agriculture and micro-enterprise (River Gee);

Legislation implemented for women's inheritance rights in accordance with the Constitution (Sinoe);

Women's participation at all levels ensured (Sinoe)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

50/50 participation of women and men in all data collection & monitoring (Grand Bassa)

5. Honest & Responsive Government, including communities in monitoring

(i) national rationale

Enables equal distribution of nation's wealth (Bong; Maryland); Easy access to public information (Bong). Monitoring ensures good performance and delivery of efficient services (Bong);

(ii) key threats

Highly centralised government – need for education about emerging decentralisation policy (Grand Bassa); Failure to allow participation & inclusiveness (Bong; Grand Gedeh); Lack of an open budget system at all levels, allowing for accountability (Grand Bassa); lack of political

will for effective monitoring (Bong); Lack of quality education of officials (Maryland); corruption & favouritism (River Gee)

(iii) broad goals and targets

Private & public sectors are corruption free (Bong)

Strong institutions replacing powerful men and women (Sinoe)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

Grand Bassa in plenary determined that community involvement in monitoring would improve the active participation of citizens in the planning and monitoring of service provision by government in order to strengthen democratic processes at the local level by:

1. Informing community members about available services and their entitlements and thus enhancing local ownership of the services provided;
2. Soliciting regular citizen feedback about the accessibility and quality of these services in order to improve the efficacy, efficiency, quality and equity of service delivery;
3. Enhancing the voice and agency of marginalised groups, especially women, youth and people living with a disability to demand for equity in access to services;
4. Providing an opportunity for direct dialogue between service providers and the community and to enhance the capacity of service providers to integrate this feedback into improved service delivery systems, which should improve the responsiveness and social accountability of service providers;
5. Comparing/benchmarking service delivery performance across counties/districts in order to identify best practices, create peer learning mechanisms and provide constructive policy advice to the implementing ministries at national level.

Monitoring enhances effective implementation (Maryland; River Gee). Need protection for whistle-blowers (River Gee); independent and balanced audits (River Gee)

6. Better Job Opportunities

(i) national rationale

Fosters peace and development (Grand Gedeh) and security (Maryland). "Life only worth living when you have a better and secure job" (65-year old visually-impaired man in Grand Bassa); higher incomes enable household investment in children's education (Grand Bassa); reduces youth disenchantment and reduces vulnerability (Gbarpolu); reduces poverty and crime rates (River Cess)

(ii) key threats

Lack of investors and need for more concessions (River Gee); Labour laws not enforced – should be put in Constitution (Grand Bassa); poor education & lack of training (Bong; River Cess; Maryland; River Gee); tribalism and nepotism (River Cess); most companies and development entities are urbanised and have difficulty recruiting trained personnel to relocate to remote settlements (Lofa); enter partnerships with local concession companies to provide better jobs and train nationals (Sinoe)

(iii) broad goals and targets

(iv) delivery & monitoring

7. Access to Clean Water & Sanitation

(i) national rationale

Essential for health (Gbarpolu; GCM) and prevention of water-borne diseases (Grand Bassa)

(ii) key threats

Lack of chlorination of water points (Grand Bassa); Need for more water points (Grand Bassa); poor maintenance (Gbarpolu)

(iii) broad goals and targets

Ensure all citizens have access to safe water and improved sanitation (Bong) as a right (River Gee); 2030 target of 85% having such access (Bong)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

8. Social Protection – support for those who cannot work

(i) national rationale

Important for elderly and vulnerable populations, including those with leprosy (GCM); reduces income divergence and marginalisation (Gbarpolu)

(ii) key threats

Corruption and poor management of state resources (Bong)

(iii) broad goals and targets

By 2030, over 75% of people who cannot work have access to cash subsidies (Bong)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

9. Persons with Disabilities' inclusion and access

(i) national rationale

Reduces discrimination and provides free movement and access to public facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Bong)

(ii) key threats

Persons with Disabilities are seen as unproductive and a liability to society (Lofa); Lack of government will and improper planning of new construction (Bong)

(iii) broad goals and targets

The most excluded children, including those with disabilities, access a quality education (National Union of Organisations of the Disabled, Liberia – Montserrado Consultation)

All development programme design informed by the live expertise and experiences of persons with disabilities by ensuring their effective participation and representation in the decision-making process (CAB – Montserrado consultation)

All Post-2015 monitoring data disaggregated by upper and lower quintile, disability, ethnicity, rural/urban, gender and age categories with standardised M&E system, involving civil society monitoring (CAB – Montserrado consultation)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

Design skills training programmes to build capacity of persons with disabilities and promote programmes to enable them to obtain employment (Lofa)

10. Protection against Crime & Violence (Peace & Security)

(i) national rationale

Peace and security is the bedrock for all other development aspirations (Sinoe); Protection of life & property is fundamental (Bong; Grand Gedeh); promotes freedom, personal security, confidence & development (Gbarpolu)

(ii) key threats

Weak judicial system (Grand Bassa); Laws not enforced leading to people taking advantage; victims of false accusations (Grand Gedeh); security forces not well paid and not mobile (River Gee); lack of established peacebuilding committees in every district and national/local initiatives in peace building (Lofa); need for strong bilateral relations with neighbouring countries (Lofa) and to organise communal programmes, activities and projects to enhance co-existence (Lofa)

(iii) broad goals and targets

Target: Violence & crime reduced by 90% (Bong)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

Additional Cross-cutting issue raised

Environmental Management

(i) national rationale

To conserve forests, wildlife and minerals (Bong; Maryland)

(ii) key threats

Communities not involved in environmental management and receive no benefits from natural resource extraction – lack of decentralisation and proper accountability (Grand Bassa); lack of strong laws to curtail illegal mining (Maryland) and policies to encourage reforestation (Maryland); corrupt enforcement officers bribed by illegal miners/loggers (River Gee); weak concession laws, policies and guidelines (Lofa); limited awareness on citizen's rights to their natural resources (Lofa)

(iii) broad goals and targets

Laws on the Environment to be included in the Constitution (Grand Bassa); Concession agreement revised to meet international standards of operation that preserve nature and permit agencies to monitor operations relating to environmental impact (Lofa)

(iv) delivery & monitoring

Our 3 Main Concerns

Concerns	National Validation: Women's Focus Group		Concerns	National Validation: Youth Focus Group
	Drugs & Substance Abuse			Bad Governance
	Decentralisation			Insecurity
	Access to Justice			Discrimination
	National Validation: Traditional Leaders' Focus Group			National Validation: Persons with Disabilities' Focus Group
	National reconciliation, peace & security			Education
	Political bickering – recommend two-party system in Liberia			Employment
	Corrupt & weak justice system			Access to Social Services
	National Validation: Civil Society Organisations Focus Group			
	Corruption in the Public Sector			
	Decentralisation			
	Concession Agreements – lacking involvement of locals			

Concerns expressed are largely those relating to governance and justice, enabling people to realise their rights in a stable and predictable environment, which are threatened by those with power to be corrupt and unaccountable. For Persons with Disabilities, it is notable that their exclusion from basic services drives them to be concerned that they should be included and have access to what others are beginning to access. Being physically located in towns, their views represent a wider group of excluded people on the margins of society due to their remote locations without access to basic services.

Our key Goals

- The consultations left too little time to work on both Goals and targets. Many listed administrative strategies and targets (e.g. River Gee, Maryland), rather than Goals. Some targets were less than universal, despite commitment to rights (e.g. Grand Gedeh)
- Ensure improved quality education at all levels (Bong; Margibi) and legislate for compulsory education (Lofa);
- Ensure access to improved transport & road networks and to affordable clean energy (Bong);
- ICT access for all – but some counties saw this as a target only for most parts (e.g. Bong);
- Employment opportunities for all (Bong; Margibi) with private sector concessions (River Gee), skilled Liberians replacing expats (Lofa); and social protection for those who cannot work;
- Eradicate income poverty (Margibi);
- Gender equality with quota system in public sector (Margibi);
- Health, safe water & improved sanitation for all (Bong);
- Security for all;

- Promote nationwide reconciliation (River Cess), with a national vision (Grand Bassa)
- Manage forests, wildlife and ecosystem for sustainability (River Gee; Margibi) and control mining and timber operations and for the benefit of all – seen as a key to avoiding return to conflict (Grand Kru). Environmental laws written into the Constitution (Grand Bassa).

Extending Key MDGs

Existing MDGs to be extended, with abbreviated description as summarised for Validation Consultation Participants, who did not put more than one of their 2 votes onto the same priority, resulting in related areas possibly having multiple votes, increasing their apparent priority:

MDG	Target	National Validation	Votes	
MDG1		Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger		57
	(b)	Decent work for all, including women & youth	23	
	(c)	Hunger	20	
	(a)	Below poverty line	14	
MDG3		Promote gender equality & empower women – in education, employment & leadership	29	
MDG4		Reduce child mortality – of under-five & infants	27	
MDG7		Ensure environmental sustainability, including:		25
	(a)	Biodiversity	7	
	(b)	Water & sanitation	14	
	(c)	Urban slum life	4	
MDG5		Improve maternal health	24	
MDG2		Achieve universal primary education with equal outcomes for boys & girls	21	
MDG6		Combat through prevention & treatment:		16
	(a)	HIV & AIDS	7	
	(b)	Malaria	7	
	(c)	Other diseases	2	
MDG8		Develop a global partnership for development	10	

This further confirms Liberians' concern to promote health and gender equality, despite women being less than one-third of the participants, which is brought together in the issue of maternal health. Of just over 200 votes expressed, one-third were for health issues. It also reflected concern to ensure that no-one lives in extreme income poverty and hunger and to achieve gender equality, especially in education and employment.

Those who could miss out & how to include these

The MDGs failed to address those on the margins of society, including persons with disabilities, to ensure that they have rights to basic levels of education and health outcomes and thence equal opportunities through ensuring access, both physical and social to buildings, services and employment as intended in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Liberia is a signatory. Concern to focus on Persons with Disabilities and also those on the margins due to remote locations or ethnic identity have been strongly expressed in these consultations as in the Peace-building & Education consultations in 2012, not only by Persons with Disabilities, but also by others, particularly traditional leaders. This requires a change in attitudes and behaviours and a break with the past, when lack of respect for others and social exclusion characterised Liberian social values and political life, becoming drivers of conflict. The new desire for inclusion and respect reflects a commonly expressed view that Liberia must not return to its previous state of unstable equilibrium that at any time could return to conflict and end the gains that are being made.

Special vulnerabilities

Participants were clear that social protection is necessary for those who cannot work, including older persons, whose wisdom is needed for healthy community life. Respect for elders is part of the African heritage that Liberians have expressed in these consultations and those of the Peace-building & Education as being essential to place on their list of priorities. Social protection enables that community respect to be realised and for older persons, who are no longer able to work, to maintain their status in the community. No reference was made to children who are orphans, who are seen as the responsibility of the extended family, although those who live on the streets seem to be left out of public concern.

Annexes:

Principles & Dimensions

National Validation Choices:

Principles (Primary & Complementary)

Much time was spent in plenary at the Validation explaining the difference between the two options, but some explanations further confused rights to basic outcomes with higher targets for service delivery. Discussion showed that many did not want either/or, but recognised the need for a complementary option in addition to the primary option.

1. Equity:

OPTION A: Improving average conditions, as in most existing MDGs; OR

OPTION B: Ensuring no-one falls below a minimum level defined in and by each country, as in the Social Protection Floor¹⁶ proposal?

OPTION B supported by 60%

2. Rights

OPTION A: Administrative Guidelines on targets for service delivery to be achieved by Government (as in the Agenda for Transformation commitments); OR

OPTION B: Where appropriate, enshrined in the Constitution?

OPTION B supported by 60%

3. Inclusion

A. OPTION A: Maximising national GDP; OR

OPTION B: Inclusive Growth, providing equality of opportunity for all?

OPTION B supported by 55%

B. OPTION A: Raise access to services to international levels for those already achieving;
OR

OPTION B: Focus on equality of outcomes in education achieved or in morbidity/mortality, including Persons with Disabilities and those in remote locations?

OPTION B supported by 98%

¹⁶ Explained by the Facilitator as: The UN **Social Protection Floor** proposes a minimum level of basic social services and access to a basic minimum income for all:

1. A basic set of essential social rights and transfers, in cash and in kind, to provide a minimum income and livelihood security for all and to facilitate effective demand for and access to essential goods and services.

2 The supply of an essential level of goods and social services such as health, water and sanitation, education, food, housing, life and asset-saving information that are accessible for all.

Dimensions

Dimensions voted for by Validation Consultation Participants, who did not put more than one of their 3 votes onto the same dimension or addition to a dimension:

Dimension	Qualified by Proposed Additions	Votes	
Inclusive Social Development	Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in all targets & indicators	21	
	Disaggregation of all indicator data by sex, disability, location	3	
	Reduction of disparities in <u>outcomes</u> , not just service delivery	6	
Separator			
Inclusive Economic Development – economic prosperity in a knowledge-based economy, technologically innovative with high skills (Vision 2030)	Focus on vocational training	24	
	Focus on training internships as condition of FDI	3	
	Mineral export revenues to be linked to local Community Development Funds	18	
	Focus on value-addition in exports	0	
Separator			
Environmental Sustainability	Land rights reform	6	
	Community involvement in concession terms (see also below under Good Governance)	13	(29 with votes below)
	Renewable/clean energy development (as in Vision 2030)	5	
	Conservation of biodiversity	3	
Separator			
Peace & Security	Focus on comprehensive reconciliation	22	
	Focus on recognition of cultural vibrancy & <u>African heritage</u>	7	
Separator			
Good Governance – summarised by Transparency, Accountability & Participation (see Vision 2030's accountable & democratic state)	Transparent audits	2	53
	Non-discrimination	16	
	Community monitoring & accountability	6	
	Freedom of information	13	
	Local community involvement in concession agreements (see also above under Environmental Sustainability)	16	
Separator			
Maternal Health	As a dimension that requires, and results from, changed policies, access and behaviours	21	
Separator			

Consultation Programme

0830 - 1000	Preparations and introductory activities
0830	Arrival and registration of Participants
0830 – 0915	Breakfast
0920	Welcome – County Development Officer
0930	Opening statements – County Superintendent Objectives and expectations – CDO/Facilitator
1000 – 1100	Taking Stock of where we are - Facilitator Powerpoint Presentation on MDGs, Progress and Post 2015 Agenda: Part 1: Global; Africa; Liberia, inc New Deal Liberia Fragility Assessment Part 2: Post-2015: Aft, (leading to <i>Vision 2030</i>); Post-2015 Processes; MY World Survey; Education equity analysis; Post-2015 Principles Questions of Clarification
1100 -1145	Plenary Discussion of Post-2015 Principles – Facilitator See Last Slide of Presentation (leave on screen for the plenary discussion)
1145 – 1200	Break
1200 – 1245	Introducing the Focus Group Discussions – Facilitator Background Information – Building on Earlier Consultation Conclusions; Dividing into Focus Groups and the Thematic areas for each group; Agreeing Ground Rules identifying the WHAT, WHY, WHO, HOW, WHEN, WHAT NEXT for each issue or thematic area (see Facilitator Guidelines for more information); New Priorities and Old MDGs to be retained/revised; Focus Groups e.g. older persons (possibly one group male and one female) from rural areas, may choose to hold discussion in vernacular; male youth; female youth; children; mothers; traditional elders; religious leaders; local officials; civil society. Details of which groups discuss which issues are in Guidelines.
1245 – 1345	Lunch Break
1345 – 1545	Focus Groups
1545 – 1600	Break
1600 – 1700	Focus Groups Feedback to Plenary Also identify representative to proceed on behalf of Focus Group to Monrovia Validation
1700 – 1730	Facilitator & Rapporteur Summary Checking if voices of all have been heard & summarized correctly Revising the priorities according to County perceptions Next Steps towards Liberia Validation and upward report Reporting Back to County Participants
1730 – 1740	Close by Traditional Council

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