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LIBERIA



# NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY 2025-2030





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### Preface

In October 2024, the Government of Liberia (GoL) launched its new development blueprint, the **ARREST Agenda** for Inclusive Development (AAID). The AAID focuses on six key areas: Agribusiness value chain (to ensure food security and job creation), Roads (Infrastructure) (to facilitate better connectivity), Rule of Law and Governance (to combat corruption and strengthen institutions for better services delivery), Human Capital (strengthening the education system and empowering youth), Sanitation (access to clean water and improved health), and Tourism (promoting Liberia's natural beauty and cultural heritage). The AAID is intended for five years (2025 to 2029) and highlights the interventions the government intends to undertake to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, as well as lay the foundation for achieving the AU Agenda 2063 targets, especially those applicable to Liberia. In this respect, the AAID pillar on Human Capital (strengthening the education system and empowering youth), remains critical if Liberia must achieve the SDGs.

This National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) outlines concrete actions and strategies for promoting meaningful youth participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, security, and sustaining peace efforts in Liberia. The NAP YPS also aims to ensure the youth are protected from all forms of vulnerability and prevented from violent conflicts now and in the future. Relatedly, the plan seeks to ensure that at-risk youths, locally referred to as “zogots” in Liberia, are rehabilitated and reintegrated into society. This NAP YPS is a comprehensive and strategic framework for the Government of Liberia (GoL) to implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018), and 2535 (2020), and put into practice the relevant international and continental frameworks on Youth, Peace, and Security.

This NAP YPS comprises eight sections. Section one introduces the YPS agenda and its normative framework. This section also reflects Liberia's unique youth experiences and conflict context. Section two presents an in-depth review and assessment of previous and existing national youth policies and plans, including a review of a few national development agendas that capture issues related to youth, and outline actions to address them over time. Section three explains the NAP YPS development process, including timelines, which provides a clear understanding of the rigorosity of the development process.



This section also highlights the various consultations held and presents the key findings from these processes, which have informed the actions in the NAP YPS. Section four defines the key words used in this document to enable an understanding of the context in which each term was used. The next section, five, presents the “theory of change” that shows the if-then analysis to help determine what would be achieved with the implementation of the NAP YPS or what changes would occur if specific actions were taken. Section six is the cost action plan. This section forecasts the financial requirements for implementing all actions outlined in the NAP YPS over the next five years. Section seven describes the coordination mechanism and the roles of various institutions involved in the implementation of the NAP. Section eight presents the resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation plans. These sections are followed by annexes on the NAP development process, references to key literature reviewed, and institutions consulted.



## Foreword

The Liberia National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) is a strategic framework to guide and unify collective efforts of the government, youth groups, civil society institutions, and various partners in promoting youth engagement in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and sustainable development. The development of the NAP YPS represents a significant step towards ensuring and facilitating the active participation of young people in decision-making processes, thereby ensuring their voices are heard loudly.

The NAP identifies the unique challenges young people face, which impact their meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes, including opportunities for a better livelihood, social exclusion, and knowledge gaps. It also identifies the roles of stakeholders in the areas of peace, security, and development through programs, services, facilities, and activities aimed at achieving the resolution's goal. The NAP YPS complements existing national youth policies and national development plans, as well as regional conventions on youth. The development of this plan demonstrates the Government of Liberia's commitment to peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and to fostering the vital role of the country's youth as critical partners in these endeavors.

As Minister of Youth and Sports, I am delighted that, by developing this NAP YPS, Liberia joins the countries in Africa that have taken the initiative to implement the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250, and the African Union's Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm the Government of Liberia's firm commitment to the full actualization and implementation of this national action plan. I look forward to collaborating with all our development partners, civil society organizations, youth institutions, and federations to support the implementation of the plan.

Cllr. J. Cole Bangalu  
Minister  
Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Republic of Liberia



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The Government of Liberia (GOL), through the Ministry of Youth and Sports, as well as the Federation of Liberia Youth (FLY), and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), would like to acknowledge and express profound gratitude and appreciation to the United Nations (UN) and other partners for their financial and technical support for the development of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security (NAP YPS). Most especially, the Government of Liberia recognizes the enormous support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Liberia, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, and the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund managed by the Executive Office of the Secretary General. The Government also acknowledges the vital contributions of the Federation of Liberia Youth (FLY) and other youth organizations in Liberia, as well as various civil society organizations, for their participation throughout the NAP development process. Special thanks also go to all the members of the National Coalition (Government institutions, CSOs, and other partners) who have been overseeing and coordinating the development of this plan.



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Action for Girls Empowerment	AGE
African Union	AU
African Union Continental Framework	AUCF
Agriculture and Industrial Training Bureau	AITB
Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development	AAID
Bureau of State Enterprises	BSE
Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding	CEMESP
Center for Sustainable Development and Education Affairs	CSDEA
Community-Based Organizations	CBOs
Community Healthcare Initiative	CHI
Comprehensive Peace Agreement	CPA
Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration	DDRR
Ebola Virus Disease	EVD
Federation of Liberian Youth	FLY
Female Journalists Association of Liberia	FeJAL



Focus Group Discussions	FGD
German Agro Action	GAA
Government of Liberia	GoL
Independent National Commission for Human Rights	INCHR
Innovation for Poverty Action	IPA
Internal Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding	IDPS
International Non-Governmental Organizations	INGOs
Inter-religious Council of Liberia	IRCL
Joint Program for Employment and Empowerment of Young People	JP-YEEYP
Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency	LDEA
Liberia Immigration Services	LIS
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services	LISGIS
Liberia Scout Association	LSA
Liberia National Police	LNP
Liberia National Student Union	LINSU



Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission	LRRRC
Liberia Youth Foundation	LYF
Liberia Youth Voices for the International Conference on Population and Development	LYV4ICPD
Mano River Union	MRU
Mano River Union Youth Parliament	MRUYP
Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection	MGCSP
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	MoFA
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning	MFDP
Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism	MICAT
Ministry of Internal Affairs	MIA
Ministry of Justice	MoJ
Ministry of Labor	MoL
Ministry of Public Works	MPW
Most Significant Change	MSC
National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security	NAP YPS
National Action Plan	NAP



National Bureau of Concessions	NBC
National Council for Vocational and Technical Education and Training	NCVTET
National Civil Society Council of Liberia	NSCL
National Development Plan	NDP
National Housing and Population Census	NPHC
National Security Strategy of the Republic of Liberia	NSSRL
National Traditional Council of Liberia	NTCL
National Union of Organizations of the Disabled	NUOD
National Youth Policy	NYP
National Youth Manifesto	NYM
Naymote Partners for Democratic Development	NAYMOTE
Office of the Liberia Peace Ambassador	OLPA
Paramount Young Women Initiative	PAYOWI
Peace Agent Network	PAN
Political, Economic, Social, Technology, Environmental, Legal	PESTEL
Poverty Reduction Strategic	PRS





Promoting Sustainable Partnerships for Economic Transformation	PROSPECT
Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment	REALISE
Sister Aid Liberia Inc	SALI
Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index	SCORE
Sustainable Development Goals	SDGs
Technical and Vocational Education and Training	TVET
Tumutu Agriculture Training Program	TATP
TVET Development Fund	TVET DF
United Nations Security Council Resolution	UNSCR
United Nations	UN
United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office	UNRCO
United Nations Mission in Liberia	UNMIL
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund	UNPBF
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UN WOMEN



United States Agency for International Development	USAID
UN Youth Advisory Panel	UNYAP
West African Network for Peacebuilding	WANEP
World Bank	WB
Women NGO Secretariat	WONGOSOL
Youth Ambassadors for Peace	YAP
Young Men's Christian Association	YMCA
Youth Network for Positive Change	YOUNETPO
Youth Peace and Security	YPS



## INTRODUCTION TO THE YPS AGENDA AND ITS NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK (UNSCRS 2250, 2419, AND 2535)



The Liberia National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security (NAP YPS) has been developed in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 of 2015. It highlights the critical role of young people in peace and security. UNSCR 2250 evolved from several years of the UN's peace efforts in war-torn countries and aims to end violent and devastating civil crises. Lessons learned from intervening in several civil crises revealed that the exploitation of young people's vulnerability to drive them into violence was among the multiple root causes of conflicts that lead to brutal civil wars and other forms of organized violence. While some young people may be rightly characterized as perpetrators of violence, young people and youth organizations could indeed be conduits for promoting peace and security.

After several years of advocacy by over 11,000 young people from over 110 countries, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a historic resolution, UN UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (2015), which was subsequently reinforced by UNSCRs 2419 of 2018, and 2535 of 2020. The YPS agenda recognizes young people's positive role in international peace and security, and the positive role young people play in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace processes locally. This landmark resolution identifies five key pillars for action: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement and reintegration. It urges Member States to give young people a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional, and international levels, and to consider implementing measures that enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes. To operationalize the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa, in August 2020, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) adopted the AU Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security (CFYPS) and its 10-Year Implementation Plan (2020 – 2029) with an overall objective to “facilitate the meaningful engagement and participation of African youth in all spectrums of peace and security at the national, regional, and continental levels.”



## **Background**

Before the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 that recognizes young people's efforts and roles in peace processes, conflict prevention, and resolution, young people in Liberia, including formal and informal youth groups, led local community projects and initiatives that support young people participation in decision-making, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution. Young people have played a crucial role in preventing and transforming conflicts in Liberia. They have been at the forefront of championing peace, preventing conflicts, advocating for good governance, and promoting youth effective participation in peace processes, as well as decision-making at all levels. They have also been actively raising awareness to combat sexual and gender-based violence, and violence against women and girls, including persons living with disabilities.

This NAP YPS also considers the unique experiences and contexts of youth in Liberia. As a result, its implementation will be tailored to local circumstances, guided by a PESTEL analysis that considers Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, and Legal factors. At the same time, this has been considered and serves as a youth-sensitive conflict and context analysis, beginning with the uniqueness of Liberia and its youth demographic factors. For example, the 2022 National Housing and Population Census indicates that about 40.3% of Liberia's population is between 15 and 35 years of age. Most importantly, this analysis incorporates a gender dimension and examines Liberia's conflict dynamics and factors, both historical and contemporary. Additionally, it identifies trends, behaviors, key threats, and patterns of violence in Liberia, which, if left unaddressed, could undermine the country's stability.

## **Liberia's conflict dynamics or context**

This section highlights key conflict issues in Liberia, allowing for comparison with some of the challenges identified by the respondents. It is evident that to ensure the NAP YPS is fully developed and effectively implemented to promote durable and lasting peace, various issues/factors that led to Liberia's 14 years of brutal civil war, some of which still have the potential to undermine peace and security, should be elucidated.



The CFYPS calls for the facilitation and development of youth-led and youth-centered strategic plans, initiatives, and programs by AUC, RECs/RMs, Member States, and other stakeholders. This includes the development and implementation of national action plans on youth, peace, and security that align with the national youth policies and development plans of Member States.

Liberia's National Action Plan for Youth, Peace and Security (NAP YPS), as developed per UNSCR 2250 and the AU-CFYPS, mentioned above, also builds upon UNSCR 2419 (2018), UNSCR 2535 (2020), and UNSCR 1325 (2000), which focuses on Women, Peace, and Security. These three resolutions collectively recognize the political agency of youth and, for the first time, establish it as a new norm, distinct from social and cultural norms about youth. Today, political agencies are critical to seeing youth as partners in peace and security processes.

Importantly, UNSCR 2015 emphasizes the critical role of youth in preventing conflict and promoting peace, as well as the importance of youth involvement in peacebuilding and decision-making. The 2018 resolution focuses on youth involvement in peacebuilding and sustaining peace and facilitating the equal and full participation of youth in decision-making; while also paying attention to the inclusion of young women, the Resolution 2535 (2020) focuses on the youth's involvement in lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation and the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes at all stages of conflict. Thus, this NAP is more holistic as it has considered all three of the UNSCR Resolutions. Additionally, this NAP YPS aligns with the AU Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security. In an AU-delivered Policy Brief of 2022, it is stated that National action plans for youth, peace, and security are essential for African Union member states to achieve their goal of Silencing the Guns. Thus, member states are encouraged to develop their NAPs in sync with the AU's key normative frameworks, including National Action Plans for Youth, Peace, and Security. The AU Framework is also intended to help bolster maximum youth inclusion and participation in peace processes.



A careful examination of the factors below reveals that the majority of them, in one way or another, were flagged again in the consultations as issues or challenges identified by young people.

In August 2003, Liberia ended its 14 years (December 1989 to August 2003) of brutal civil conflict through the signing of the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (the CPA) between the Warring Parties and the Government of Liberia. The signing of the CPA led to the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (DDRR) Process and subsequently the reestablishment and consolidation of State authority across Liberia's 15 counties. This was followed by the holding of the first post-war Presidential and general elections, which ushered in a democratically elected government headed by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in 2005.

In 2006, following the elections, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) transformed its peacekeeping mission mandate to focus on Peacebuilding. This shift aimed to ensure the consolidation of peace and initiate a collaborative process with the Government to address the underlying causes of the conflict that precipitated years of brutal civil war in Liberia, resulting in an estimated 250,000 fatalities and approximately 800,000 individuals either internally displaced or rendered as refugees, including 165,000 and 528,000 children and young people, respectively.

Research on the factors contributing to civil conflicts in Liberia has identified several factors that played a significant role in the country's civil crises. Several of these factors remain as potential catalysts for violent confrontations. In 2012, the Liberia Peacebuilding Office conducted a review of policy-related documents<sup>[1]</sup>, conflict

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[1] Key documents reviewed include; *The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)*; *The Truth and Reconciliation Report (TRC Report)*; *The UN Common Country Assessment (CCA)*; *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Liberia (UNDAF)*; *The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Liberia (NSSL)*; *The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Priority Plan (PBF Priority Plan)*; *The International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Issue Paper from Country-Level Consultations in March 2010 (Issue Paper)*; and *The "Short Term Technical Assistance to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the Republic of Liberia for Conflict Mapping Project" put together by Transtec and Euuropeaid (TRC Conflict Mapping). The Agenda for Transformation (2013 – 2017) and the National Vision 2030 and the Social Cohesion Reconciliation Index survey Report are also reviewed.*



mapping reports, and hotspot assessments, identifying eighteen factors that significantly contributed to the country's civil crises. These documents and reports include the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) survey report, which notes that several factors may still influence the re-emergence of violence — a point consistently emphasized in other key policy, technical, and analytical documents in Liberia. Of these, seven conflict factors are identified by a majority of the papers: 'land conflicts', 'condition of youth, especially about employment' (PRS 2008), 'mismanagement of natural resources', 'relationship between the state and its citizens', a 'weak and dysfunctional justice system', the 'lack of shared [national] vision', 'poverty and food insecurity', and the 'regional dimension' (UN CCA 2006). Moreover, some of the remaining categories display close similarities to the seven factors listed above: 'pressure on reintegration' is closely linked to 'land conflicts' as they are described in the other documents; 'political polarization', 'poor leadership and the misuse of power', and the 'over-centralization of power' are similar to 'relationship between the state and its citizens' (see PRS of 2008); while 'global issues like international crime and terrorism' (NSSRL 2008) are readily incorporated into an understanding of 'regional dimension'; and 'dependent economy' is closely linked to 'poverty and food insecurity' (see also NSSRL 2008).

Furthermore, while only one document explicitly lists a 'weak security sector' as a conflict factor, security sector reform is generally treated as a primary development objective, and limited security sector capacity is implied as a primary conflict factor in all the documents examined.

Interestingly, many of these factors are still prevalent in contemporary Liberia. There is high unemployment amongst young people in both the formal and informal sectors due to limited education and skills.

Additionally, most of the documents recognize gender inequalities, including gender-based violence (GBV), as crosscutting concerns for peacebuilding. While GBV may not always appear as a primary driver of conflict, it both reflects and reinforces underlying





imbalances that fuel instability, making its systematic prevention and response essential to sustainable peace. The conflict factors highlighted in this review can be organized into the following seven categories:

**1) Land disputes and mismanagement of natural resources** - the potential for conflict derived from unresolved differences over land boundaries and tenure, as well as profit- and decision-sharing in the use of Liberia's natural resources, including forest and mineral wealth. These issues, however, carry specific and often acute implications for the nation's youth, yet young people face considerable barriers in securing land rights. The coexistence and often contradictory nature of traditional and formal land tenure systems create ambiguity that disadvantages those with less power and fewer connections, frequently youth. Young people may find themselves unable to access family land needed for farming or building a home due to unresolved boundary disputes, complex inheritance issues, or the seizure of communal land by local elites or external actors. Young women often face even greater hurdles due to discriminatory customary inheritance practices that prioritize male lineage, effectively denying them independent land ownership or secure tenure.

**2) Poverty and access to livelihoods, particularly for young people** - have the potential to lead to conflict if Liberian citizens are unable to find legitimate livelihoods. Young people, particularly those with some form of combat experience or access to weapons, are particularly vulnerable in this context.

**3) Poor governance and misuse of power at the central and local levels** - are potential drivers of conflict if the government acts (or is perceived to act) in an exclusionary, opportunistic, and/or corrupt manner. Given the Liberian government's focus on decentralizing power, it is particularly critical to address issues related to local misuses of power and promote accountability and transparency at all levels of government. Specifically, providing access to basic government services, ensuring opportunities to prevent and address political grievances, and managing public expectations and strengthening key public institutions, particularly those related to the rule of law (these are sufficiently critical to constitute separate conflict factors), are crucial to Liberia's long-term stability.



These governance failures have a particularly corrosive effect on young Liberians, who often perceive themselves as excluded from political processes, underserved by public institutions, and disproportionately affected by corruption. Youths face significant structural barriers that limit their meaningful participation in governance and decision-making processes. At the local level, where decentralization efforts are intended to shift power, youth representation remains minimal.

**4) A weak and dysfunctional justice sector** - is a major conflict factor because failure to provide legitimate recourse for disputes and grievances has repeatedly resulted in violence throughout Liberia. Reconciling traditional and formal legal systems will be a critical aspect for addressing this conflict factor, particularly in the context of community legitimacy. Its failure to provide accessible, fair, and timely recourse for disputes and grievances disproportionately affects young people, both as victims seeking redress and as individuals accused of offenses.

**5) A weak security sector**- leaves open the possibility of violent conflict, particularly with very porous national borders and a lack of police access to most rural areas in Liberia, creating spaces for illicit activities, cross-border violence, and unaddressed community tensions that can lead to major outbreaks of violence. This situation leaves communities vulnerable to crime and violence, and exposes youth to both dangers and illicit opportunities, potentially drawing them into activities that further destabilize the nation.

**6) Social cohesion, identity issues, pressures on reintegration, and a lack of community resilience to social conflict**- Liberia continues to grapple with the legacy of its civil wars, manifested in lingering societal divisions along ethnic, regional, and intergenerational lines. These fractures, combined with the ongoing challenges of reintegrating former combatants and building community resilience, create social fault lines that can be easily exploited, impacting youth identity formation, sense of belonging, and vulnerability to conflict. The narratives of past wrongs and group identity are often transmitted to younger generations who may not have directly experienced them but inherit their social and psychological legacies. Political actors can manipulate these latent tensions, particularly during election periods, mobilizing youth along divisive identity lines for political gain.



## REVIEW & ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING NATIONAL PLANS/FRAMEWORKS



The development of the NAP YPS certainly involved a review of the relevant policies and frameworks in the country. These include the National Gender Policy of Liberia of 2010, the National Youth Manifesto of 2017, the National Youth Policy and Action Plan of 2025,<sup>[2]</sup> and the Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) (2025 – 2029), which was launched in January 2025 by the President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Joseph N. Boakai, Sr. However, this NAP on YPS addresses a few of the issues outlined in the 2017 Youth Manifesto and the National Youth Policy 2025-2029.

The review and assessment also considered other related papers and projects on Youth Employment and Empowerment in Liberia, including the Liberia Youth Opportunity Project (LYOP) of 2018 and the Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment (REALISE) Project, funded by the World Bank and the Government of Liberia in 2022.

In 2017, the National Youth Manifesto was developed by the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) as a complementary document to the National Youth Policy Action Plan and the National Youth Act of 2013 in providing sustainable and impactful development interventions for Liberian Youth to be supported by all political parties, development partners, and would-be governments. The document outlined key priorities for young people that the Government, partners, and political parties should support, regardless of the outcomes of the 2017 elections. Those key priorities included:

- Quality Education
- Quality Health for All
- Employment and Empowerment
- Youth in Agriculture
- Peace, Reconciliation, and Justice
- Meaningful participation
- Persons living with disabilities

...

*[2] The National Policy and Action Plan 2025-2029 was under development at the same time as the development of this National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security.*



Furthermore, several key policies and programs are currently being implemented that are relevant to young people, either directly or indirectly. These include the National Youth Policy and Action Plan, the Liberia Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy (2019-2024), the Education Sector Plan (ESP), the National Health Sector Strategic Plan (NHSSP) (2021–2025), and the National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP).

Initiatives and programmes such as the President's Young Professionals Programme (PYPP) (Established 2009); the Youth Employment Project; Action for Adolescents and Youth Development Programme; National Cadet Programme, and the Growth Accelerator Liberia and Youth Startup Business Plan Competition (launched 2021), are programs that are currently on going that the NAP YPS could be linked to, to help address various issues confronted by the young people in Liberia. These policies and programs encompass several areas and interventions that are already relevant to young people, while others are cross-cutting.

However, despite all these interventions, the issues and challenges faced by the young people seem to continue unabated.

The comprehensive review of these documents clearly demonstrates that, since the end of the Liberian civil crisis, the Government and its partners have made various efforts to address the challenges facing young people, with notable achievements in some cases and little to no impact in others. Secondly, it raises a fundamental question: despite all these efforts, why do the issues and challenges facing young people in Liberia remain so pervasive? From the analysis, one may deduce or infer the following:

- Firstly, research shows that investing in young people immediately after a conflict is not easy. They are not a homogeneous group at the best of times, but after years of conflict, they are disassociated, scattered, disconnected from social institutions, and often from their families.



- Secondly, the institutions usually given the responsibility of dealing with young people have their mandates narrowed or segmented and/or diluted into other issues/institutions.
- Thirdly, where they exist, youth organizations are weak and vulnerable to manipulation.
- Fourthly, international assistance rarely took a comprehensive approach to youth, but instead limited approaches (mostly sectoral) that correspond to their mandates and/or interests.

Furthermore, the majority of these interventions are implemented for or on behalf of young people, rather than with their active involvement and participation during the development stage of the programs and their activities.

Additionally, since 2006, most interventions have been of short-term duration. Most of the time, the focus has been on labor-intensive work programs targeting vulnerable youths, which last between three and six months. Where some forms of training have been provided, the training is often not intensive, and there is little or no incentive to both attract young people and keep them in these programs. A few markets have been created where these young people, after training, can secure immediate employment. While considerable discussions have been held about forming cooperatives, limited progress has been made in this regard.

Another compounding problem has been that several of these trainings have been either in areas where there are fewer demands for jobs, or where the training is inadequate, and trainees have no proficiency or experience. Most of the time, there has been little or no psychosocial support provided alongside training and other interventions.

Moreover, interventions or programs lack a well-defined exit and sustainability plan. Besides, there has also often been inadequate funding allocated from the government through its Fiscal Budget for youth programs.



In addition, a careful study of various youth programs reveals that most of their beneficiaries have been young men. There has been limited targeted outreach required to empower young women, especially those who are out of school, economically marginalized, and otherwise vulnerable, despite the need to strengthen their critical role in peacebuilding and recovery. Initiatives that placed specific emphasis on skills training and entrepreneurship for young women should be scaled up and replicated to ensure broader impact and sustainability.

Finally, a critical component often overlooked in most of these programs is that while considerable attention has been given to imparting job skills to young people, little emphasis has been placed on transforming youths' attitudes towards personal responsibility and civic mindedness, which is crucial for stability to prevail. These efforts also did not always focus on reducing parochialism based on tribe/sectionalism and internalizing a stronger sense of Liberian national identity among the youths. This NAP YPS and previous frameworks align with UNSCR 2250 by engaging with organizers of Liberian youth activities and initiatives focused on peacebuilding, economic development, and social inclusion, particularly through leveraging digital technology and promoting youth participation in governance. In addition, youths are also recognized as a vital force in driving sustainable development and achieving the SDGs, which include: peacebuilding and justice, considering youth engagement, peace pacts and youth peace town hall; Economic Development and employment to include skills development, entrepreneurship, digital literacy; Social inclusion and participation such as youth counsels and mentorship for youth led initiatives, empowerment through education, and national youth policy; and alignment with development goals including SDGs, and National Development Plans such as the AAID. Again, this NAP YPS considers the AU Continental Framework for YPS and Youth for Peace (Y4P) African Programs. These initiatives aim to promote young people's participation in peace and security initiatives in Africa. Key alignment points include the continental framework, the Youth for Peace Africa program, the Peace and Security Council, the African Youth Chapter, partnership and coordination, and UNSCR 2250, highlighting participation in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and socioeconomic development.



## NAP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINE





The process leading to the development of this NAP has been rigorous and intensive. The matrix below explains the development process and timelines.

Actions	Date/Year	Result
Launching of the UNSCR 2250 (Youth Peace and Security Agenda)	2018	Though Liberia launched the UNSCR 2250 in 2018, the development of the NAP YPS started six years later in 2024.
Stakeholders Mapping	April-May 2024	Stakeholders in Liberia advancing the YPS agenda, including marginalized groups identified and listed for the inception workshop.
Setting up a National Coalition to oversee and coordinate the NAP YPS development process during a two-day inception workshop in Monrovia	June 6-7 2024	This inception workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, UN RC/SRSG, representatives from other UN entities, WANEP, Civil Society Organizations, youth groups, marginalized groups, and young leaders from various regions of the country. The primary aim was to discuss the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, which emphasizes the critical role of youth in peacebuilding and security processes. Attendees engaged in fruitful dialogues about the current challenges faced by young people in Liberia and explored strategies to enhance their participation in peace and security initiatives. Young people played a pivotal role in the advocacy process leading up to the launch of the Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) in Liberia.



Actions	Date/Year	Result
Recruitment of a National Consultant to develop the NAP YPS	September 2024	
Literature review	June 2024-August 2025	<p>This NAP YPS was developed after a thorough review of relevant literature, which included three existing NAP YPS from countries such as Nigeria, the Republic of the Gambia, and the Philippines that have already created and are now executing their NAP YPS. The literature review also examined prior program interventions designed to address youth issues in Liberia and to encourage active youth involvement in national peace and security initiatives. These include projects funded by various partners, including the World Bank and United Nations institutions. Additionally, the review considered Liberia's NAP on Women, Peace, and Security, given that the majority of the youth population comprises females.</p>
Development and submission of a detailed consultation plan	September - October 2024	<p>A wide range of consultation modalities, including Google surveys, face-to-face interviews, focus group discussions, radio call-in talk shows, Zoom, and WhatsApp, outlined for use to generate key findings.</p>



Actions	Date/Year	Result
1 <sup>st</sup> Regional Consultations (Monrovia)	17-18, October 2024	Approximately 125 stakeholders, including young people, CSOs, and CBOs, were consulted.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Regional Consultations (Gbarnga)	22- 23 November	About 90 stakeholders, including young people, CSOs, and CBOs, were consulted.
The Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) and Peace Agents Network (PAN) consultative workshop with various youth organizations and members (First edition of the Annual YPS Forum)	September 27, 2024	The consultation successfully engaged approximately 100 young individuals representing various youth institutions. Participation was characterized by its robust nature, with the consultation meticulously structured to facilitate inquiries, responses, and open plenary discussions concerning youth peace and security. This Forum, supported by the Embassy of Ireland and the European Union in Liberia, endeavors to address the peace and security challenges confronting young people.



The methodology employed to develop this National Action Plan is based on a participatory survey process and approach, which combines newly collected primary or first-hand data (largely qualitative data) with secondary data. The methodology ensured that the information from various respondents (young people, policy makers, and CSOs) and key actors was very consultative, credible, generating findings, conclusions, and recommendations that are youth-responsive and became the basis for the development of the NAP. Primary data were collected mainly from a rigorous consultation process. Before the consultation started, a detailed consultation plan was developed and approved.

The method of consultation also included Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), which target a diverse group of actors, including women and youth groups. Gender, age, and other considerations were taken into consideration while constituting the respective groups. The Most Significant Change (MSC) tool was used to collect data. The MSC tool enabled the consultant to gain a deeper understanding of how young people perceive change and how they present and view that change. It allowed the consultant to have first-hand knowledge of the most critical changes that respondents would like to see over the next five years. The MSC allowed stories to be told from one-on-one discussions and FGDs to collect additional data to inform the development of the NAP. Again, the MSC tool was used to engage especially women and youth groups involved in issues related to peace and security. The use of the tool provided a good understanding of the perspectives of those targeted on the positive transformations they want to experience over time concerning the implementation of the NAP and its related programs, as well as in targeted communities. The data captured through the MSC tool were valid in triangulating other data collected and helped broaden the analysis in the NAP. While the MSC Tool is handy, it does have some limitations. For example, MSC is a participatory process that emphasizes dialogue, which is time-consuming, especially if the participants and facilitators of an MSC exercise have other pressing demands on their time. Also, some participants often have concerns and reservations about the meaning of "significance", the acceptability of subjectivity, and the appearance of



competitions, which need to be addressed. In answering question #1, the respondents were advised to consider the uniqueness and specificities of the diverse group of young people, including: young women, young men, disadvantaged / At-risk youth, young people with disabilities, out-of-school girls, sex workers, and abused young women, youths involved in criminality, and young people who are referred to as illegal economic migrants (doing illegal mining in rich mineral areas across Liberia).

For the second question, participants were asked to **outline what needs to be done to help address the key issues and challenges faced by youths in Liberia, as identified**. Additionally, in answering question #2, the respondents were asked to consider the PESTEL analysis framework, which examines Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, and Legal factors in analysis, and intergenerational issues related to land.

The respondents discussed and suggested how young people in Liberia:

- Can be involved and **participate** in peacebuilding processes?
- Can it ensure **protection**, that is, safeguarding the youths from violence and exploitation?
- Can **prevent** young people from indulging in conflict?
- Can foster and promote partnerships, that is, collaboration between government, civil society, and youth organizations?
- Can encourage and support the **Disengagement and Reintegration** of former fighters and victims of violent conflicts and extremism into society? and,
- Can address issues regarding **youth access to land**?

Moreover, the respondents discussed and suggested the specific roles of the actors listed below in achieving the actions suggested to address the challenges confronting young people in Liberia, as identified in the matrix below. These institutions/stakeholders include:



- a) Government
- b) UN and Partners (including INGOs)
- c) CSOs/CBOs, including youth-led organizations.**
- d) Religious institutions
- e) The young people themselves
- f) Traditional Chiefs and Elders/Leaders
- g) Family/Community



## KEY FINDINGS FROM STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS



During the consultations, the participants identified twenty-one (21) key issues and challenges young people faced. As summarized in Annex 5, most of these issues or challenges have repeatedly been highlighted in various youth policy documents, including the National Youth Policies of 2005, 2011, and 2017. Also, during the NAP YPS Designed Workshop, the participants reviewed the 21 issues and consolidated them into six key priorities based on the AAID and 2025 National Youth Policy, including:

***Priority Area One: Youth Social Protection and Economic Empowerment***

***Priority Area Two: Youth Representation and Meaningful Participation in Governance***

***Priority Area Three: Reduce Political Violence and Polarization***

***Priority Area Four: Digital Literacy, Cybersecurity, and Inclusion***

***Priority Area Five: Environmental Sustainability***

***Priority Area Six: Gender Equality, Inclusion, and Social Norms: Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices.***

*Again, in answering question two, the respondents provided recommendations that highlighted the NAP YPS's five pillars. These are reflected in Table #2 below.*





**Table II**

Participation	Protection	Prevention	Partnerships
<p>Inclusive Policy Development and Decision making: Ensure youth, including young people with disabilities, at-risk youth, out-of-school girls, are involved in decision-making.</p> <p>Negotiation: Ensure youths are involved or represented in issues that require peace negotiations.</p> <p>Advocate and promote the active and meaningful participation of youth at all levels in decision-making, policy formulation, implementation, and the monitoring of peace agreements.</p>	<p>Protection from harmful substances and abuse, sexual exploitation and abuse, vulnerability, and from violent conflicts.</p> <p>Advocate and promote the protection of youth in peace and conflict situations: This involves ensuring that young people are safeguarded from all forms of violence, exploitation, and recruitment during times of conflict, while also recognizing their unique needs and vulnerabilities. It also means creating safe spaces and platforms for young people to meaningfully participate in peacebuilding processes, decision-making, and post-conflict recovery efforts.</p>	<p>Education and Awareness: Youth should be educated on Peacebuilding processes and develop programs in schools and communities to raise awareness about conflict prevention or management, resolutions, and the importance of peace and maintaining peace among youths.</p> <p>Land rights: Ensure young people (especially young women) have equal access to land in conformity with the Land Rights Law of 2018.</p>	<p>Youth Partnership and networks: Ensure youths partner and network with CSOs and INGOs in promoting peace and issues that relate to youth</p> <p>Decentralizations: Activities relating to peace building should be decentralized in various counties.</p> <p>Facilitate effective coordination and communication between the youths and relevant stakeholders (Government, partners, communities) on common planning and implementation together with national legislation; promote increased political, financial, and technical support to reinforce youth-led initiatives; as well as leverage the capacities of the media to highlight the positive contribution of youth in peace and security.</p>



Participation	Protection	Prevention	Partnerships
	Safeguard young people from all forms of violence, including abuse within the justice system: Youth prisoners should be treated fairly, and their rights should be respected per international human rights standards. Fair, speedy, and youth-sensitive legal processes should be provided to reduce the prolonged detention of youth awaiting trial. Promote legal reforms that guarantee speedy trials, legal representation, and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.	Promote the building and strengthening of youth capacity on conflict prevention, including peace education, fighting against hate speech, the positive use of social media, support to establishment of architectures, access to education, vocational training, as well as employment opportunities for young people to reduce vulnerability.	

### Disengagement and Reintegration

Organize and promote various forms of Mental health, psychosocial, spiritual, livelihood, and mediation programs that help address and rehabilitate at-risk young people.

Promote policies, legislations, and programs that support survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as effective repatriation, resettlement, disarmament, de-radicalization, demobilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration of youth disengaged from criminal gangs, arms, and extremist groups.



Furthermore, there were consultations with other key actors, including key government institutions, such as the Liberia National Police (LNP), the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), and the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA). The consultation with the security sector focused on issues that cut across the Mano River Union (MRU) sub-region, especially the regional dynamics of youth problems, including transnational crimes, drugs and human trafficking, proliferation of small arms, light weapons and their munitions, as well as illegal migration and trafficking in persons, especially young women.

There were also targeted questions asked during the consultations with the Liberia Peacebuilding Office (PBO) and Office of the Liberia Peace Ambassador (OLPA) and the National Traditional Council of Liberia (NTCL) (all within the Ministry of Internal Affairs), the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), Ministry of Public Works (MPW), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS), Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) as well as some members of the National Legislature, on resources mobilization and how to support youth entrepreneurship, skills training and petty trading. These consultations also discussed program ideas along various themes, 'how' questions: what practical actions are needed to help address the issues faced by young people.

### **Authenticity of the Findings**

- The findings are aligned with other ongoing processes, such as the consultations for the development of the National Youth Policy and Action Plan 2025-2029, and the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) of the Government.
- A National Coalition was established to oversee the NAP YPS development process, participating in part at every stage of the draft revisions.
- The members of the Coalition not only oversaw the NAP YPS development process, but also some of them actively participated as respondents.
- Lastly, and most importantly, the regional consultations examine the gender dimension of the issues faced by young women and opportunities to address them, thereby fostering peace and addressing conflicts in Liberia.



## DEFINITIONS AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



Definition of keywords that are used in a particular context:

- Participation
- Prevention
- Protection
- Partnership
- Disengagement and Reintegration
- Youths
- Young People
- At-Risk / Vulnerable Youths
- Zogos
- CBOs
- CSOs
- National Traditional Council
- Inter-religions Council of Liberia
- Zogoes
- Out-of-School Girls

**Participation** - The resolution emphasizes the importance of enhancing the role of youth in decision-making processes at all levels, be it local, national, or international. It encourages the inclusion of youth in the development of policies and programs that directly affect them, as well as in peace and reconciliation processes. Empowering youth and providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective participation is critical in this context.

**Prevention** - The resolution encourages youth to engage in efforts aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts. Young people can play a vital role in promoting tolerance and mutual understanding among diverse communities, as well as in fostering a culture of peace. Promoting dialogue and national reconciliation are key elements in this area.

**Protection** - This area focuses on the need to protect youth, especially those living in areas affected by armed conflicts. Youth are among the most vulnerable to violence



and exploitation during conflicts, and thus, adequate protection and ensuring their safety is imperative. This includes protecting them from forced recruitment into armed forces, sexual violence, and other forms of exploitation.

**Partnership** - The resolution calls for building strong partnerships between youth and various stakeholders in the field of peace and security, including governments, international organizations, and civil society. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among these entities is vital for achieving peace and security goals.

**Disengagement and Reintegration** - This area emphasizes the importance of supporting youth during the post-conflict phase and facilitating their reintegration into society. This includes providing access to education and vocational training, as well as supporting their mental and emotional health, and supporting survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Economically and socially empowering youth is a crucial factor in achieving stability and building sustainable peace.

**Young People**- People aged 15 – 35 years

**Resolution 2250**- A significant step toward enhancing the role of youth in peace and security processes. The sentence emphasizes the urgent need to engage youth effectively. Additionally, it highlights the importance of providing them with opportunities to contribute to building a more stable and peaceful future. Resolution 2250 also aims to change negative stereotypes about youth. It highlights their role as agents of positive change and contributors to achieving peace and development. This Resolution opens the door to a wide range of opportunities for young people to participate in society and peace processes actively, enhancing the role of youth in decision-making processes and providing significant opportunities. Youth are encouraged to participate in political and social forums, and to use their energies and creativity to serve their communities.

**Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)** - Community-based organizations (CBOs) play a crucial and vital role in delivering services at the local level.



They work on a variety of disability rights and gender issues. Effective management of the organization can significantly contribute to ensuring the effectiveness of its work.

**At-Risk Youth** - Refers to young individuals who face circumstances and experiences that increase their vulnerability to adverse outcomes. Common risk factors include poverty, family dysfunction, substance misuse, academic struggles, and involvement in delinquency. In the context of social work, it refers to youth who have reported histories of sexual exploitation or family or relationship violence. This is particularly in the case of Liberia, where children were conscripted and made child combatants during the civil war. More fundamentally, youth are vulnerable because they are people who live in an unequal world where the social values and institutions that permit opportunities and possibilities of all kinds are not available to everyone.

**Civil Society Organizations** - Refers to a wide array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations [NGOs], labor unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations.” When mobilized, civil society, sometimes called the “third sector” (after government and commerce) - has the power to influence the actions of elected policymakers and businesses. But the nature of civil society - what it is and what it does - is evolving, in response to both technological developments and more nuanced changes within societies. In Liberia, the unique role of CSOs is highly recognized and respected. In 2010, the Government of Liberia, through the Governance Commission (GC) and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), developed and signed an Accord or MOU with CSOs, through the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NSCL), that highlights and articulates the role of CSOs in Liberia.

**National Traditional Council** - Liberia’s tradition and culture play an essential role in helping to maintain peace and stability in Liberia and forging inter-ethnic, inter-communal, and political reconciliation. In this regard, the National Traditional Council of Liberia, which comprises traditional chiefs and elders, is very indispensable to the implementation of the Liberia National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security.



The young people unquestionably come from various tribal and ethnic backgrounds and have respect for their cultural values and traditions. During the implementation of the NAP YPS, the NTCL, which is represented in all 15 counties of Liberia, will continue to help instill cultural values and moral principles in young people, thereby contributing to the maintenance of peace and security. The Chiefs and Elders, as they are also considered guardians of the land, can help address intergenerational issues related to land and ensure access to land for young people, including young women.

**Inter-Religious Council of Liberia** - Formulated during the Liberian Civil War and comprises both Christian and Islamic groups in Liberia. The IRCL helped broker peace in Liberia during the civil war, and since then, this group has remained very relevant in promoting peace and security. Besides running several programs in Liberia, including schools, universities, hospitals, clinics, and health centers, religious institutions are also involved in relief and other programs. As the moral conscience of society, religious institutions have a unique role in instilling religious values and morality in the young people, most of whom are their members. In addition, most religious institutions in Liberia provide various skills and vocational training, and they also help provide jobs and employment opportunities for young people. At the same time, some of these institutions have agricultural programs, are involved in counselling and providing psychosocial support, and can become a suitable conduit for implementing the NAP YPS.

**Zogos (M) and Zogoes (F)** – At-risk and vulnerable youths in Liberia.

**Out-of-School Girls** – School-going age girls who are not in school.





## THEORY OF CHANGE



### Develop an if-then, hypothesis theory that will lead to the desired change

As stated earlier, one of the data collection processes ascertained what, in the views of the respondents, could be perceived as the most significant change (MSC). The answers varied; nevertheless, it was still possible to deduce a Theory of Change. It follows:

**If** the Government of Liberia (GoL) and young people, with comprehensive and sustained partnership with the UN, Bilateral and Multilateral partners, INGOs, CSOs, CBOs, Traditional Chiefs and Elders, and Religious Institutions:

- **Strategically invest significant financial and human resources** towards Youth Peace and Security (YPS) objectives;
- Ensure **equitable access to quality education, comprehensive health services**, and vital **digital literacy and cybersecurity education** for all young people;
- Foster **meaningful youth representation and participation** at all levels of governance and decision-making, ensuring that young women and men equally exercise agency and influence;
- Work to **institutionalize Youth Peace and Security (YPS) frameworks and agendas** across relevant sectors, ensuring their systematic integration into national planning and implementation;
- Implement robust **protection and prevention** systems to eliminate all forms of violence—including gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, rape, early marriage, and female genital mutilation while safeguarding youth from political violence, arbitrary detention, and degrading treatment;
- Effectively implement comprehensive programs for the **disengagement and reintegration** of at-risk and vulnerable youths, and school dropout girls;
- Drive comprehensive **youth empowerment and sustainable economic opportunities** through diverse forms of skills training, capacity building, micro-financing initiatives, and the provision of psychosocial support;
- And proactively develops adaptive strategies to mitigate the impacts of **climate change** on youth livelihoods and security, while actively combating **political violence and polarization**.

**Then** Liberia will then strengthen young people's sense of agency, increase their sense of safety, improve resources, and systematically address the core systemic issues and challenges hindering its youth population.



## Because

- Holistic well-being, equitable access to opportunities (economic, education, health), and meaningful political participation are fundamental to fostering young people's **agency**, empowering them to become active drivers of positive social change and sustainable development;
- Addressing deep-rooted issues like violence, exclusion from governance, and lack of digital literacy builds trust in governing bodies and societal structures, thereby enhancing **legitimacy** and strengthening social cohesion is crucial for reducing **polarization**;
- The elimination of **physical violence, particularly gender-based violence**, is a cornerstone of peace and human security, allowing young people to thrive without fear; and
- Sustained **resource contribution and investment** specifically allocated to YPS objectives are essential to create an enabling environment and provide the necessary programs and support for young people to overcome challenges, adapt to emerging threats like climate change, and contribute fully to lasting peace and security in Liberia.

## Guiding Principles

The following principles will underpin all aspects of this framework:

- **Youth-Centered Approach:** Young people are at the heart of this framework. Their voices, needs, and aspirations will inform all interventions.
- **Gender Equality and Equity:** The framework commits to equitable access and participation for all young people, particularly young women, persons with disabilities, rural youths, and other marginalized groups, so that no one is left behind.
- **Participation and Empowerment:** Young people will be actively involved in decision-making processes at all levels, from planning to implementation and monitoring.
- **Conflict Sensitivity:** Interventions will be designed and implemented to minimize unintended negative impacts and contribute to the promotion of peacebuilding.
- **Sustainability:** The framework will promote sustainable solutions that build local capacities and ensure long-term impact.
- **Intergenerational Approach:** Although this NAP focuses primarily on young people, its implementation should also consider various age groups within the Liberian society, such as parents and children. It will consider the relationships and interactions between them.



## IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK



Thematic Areas and Implementation Strategies

Objective	Key Activities	Indicators	Data Sources	Responsible Institutions/ Organizations	Linkages to Pillars of UNSCR 2250	Timeline
Thematic 1: Youth Social Protection and Economic Empowerment						
Enhance youth access to sustainable social protection and economic empowerment opportunities.	- Develop and implement market-driven vocational training programs aligned with national development priorities that contribute to peace, paying particular attention to young women, migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, and survivors of GBV.	% increase in youth employment rates  % of trained youth securing sustainable employment or starting businesses. (disaggregated by gender, disability, location, etc.)  % of schools with improved infrastructure for	- Training institution records.  - Labor market surveys and employment statistics.  - Financial institution records.  Baseline survey, midterm review and	MYS  MOE  MGCSP  MFDP  CSOs  UN Liberia  WB  CSA  MoH, MCI, MPT & LTA, MIA & Local	Prevention  Reintegration and disengagement  Protection	Year 1-5

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	<p>-Establish Young men and women-focused Microfinance Programs to reduce vulnerabilities.</p> <p>-Launch Youth Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship Grants that incentivize youth businesses that contribute to social cohesion.</p> <p>Support comprehensive reintegration processes through productive activities for at-risk youth.</p> <p>--Integrate Technology in Learning and create opportunities to increase young people's sense of</p>	<p>inclusivity, safety, and peace.</p> <p>Increase in the number of youths accessing scholarship opportunities.</p> <p>% of schools integrating technology into learning.</p> <p>% increase in youth access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services.</p> <p>Decrease in teenage pregnancy rates.</p> <p>% of young people with increased awareness of mental health and drug abuse risks.</p> <p>Increase in access to mental health and</p>	<p>end-line survey</p> <p>Annual Reports</p> <p>Census</p>	government, MICAT, LISGIS, Youth groups		

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	<p>shared identity and community belonging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Establish scholarship opportunities for young people that are related to Governance and peacebuilding.</li><li>- Introduce Peace education in the national curriculum.</li><li>- Promote increased access to sexual and reproductive health care for youth at risk.</li><li>- Create an enabling environment to promote young pregnant girls' and vulnerable girls' access to education to reduce vulnerabilities.</li></ul> <p>Ensure mental health awareness, response,</p>	<p>psychosocial services for young people.</p>				
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	and psychosocial services for young people. - Improve access to mental health services in critical areas such as police stations, hospitals, schools, and prisons. - Ensure the full implementation of drug enforcement policies, initiatives, and rehabilitation programs for drug and substance abuse among the youth in communities, Design accelerated programs for pregnant girls to ensure continued education and address					Y1-5
						Y1-5



	educational gaps and stigmatization					
Theme 2: Youth Representation and Meaningful Participation in Governance						
Strengthening Institutionalization & Meaningful Youth Participation in Governance and decision making.	-Revise the electoral laws to include 30 percent quotas for youth representation in the governance and political processes at national and county levels.  - Review and revise electoral laws to reduce the  -Launch Participatory Budgeting Initiatives  -Scale Up National Youth Service & Volunteer Programs	% increase in youth representation in governance mechanisms at national and county levels  (disaggregated by sex, age, and disability).  Number of participatory budgeting initiatives launched with youth involvement.  Increase in the number of youths participating in national service and volunteer programs.	Baseline survey, midterm review and end-line survey  Annual Reports  Census	MYS  MoJ  MIA  UN Liberia  CSOs  Youth Groups  CBOs	Prevention  Participation  Protection  Partnership	Y1-5

	<p>-Promote peer-to-peer civic facilitation of the creation of spaces for dialogue and cooperation among a range of youth representatives and other stakeholders through the annual YPS forum to stock YPS Landscape.</p> <p>Provide grants to YPS coalition members to support NAP implementation.</p> <p>Ensure that the youth's meaningful representation, participation, and voices are considered in peace processes and peace agreements.</p>	<p>% of young people engaged in peer-to-peer civic engagement networks.</p> <p>Number of intergenerational dialogues and cooperation spaces created for youth.</p> <p>% of peace processes and agreements with active youth representation (and % of young women among them).</p> <p>% increase in youth participation in peace agreements</p>				
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	Train young peace ambassadors for community engagement in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.  Support cross-border collaboration among young peacebuilders	Number of youth-led organizations receiving conflict mitigation and awareness training (disaggregated by sex).  Number of cross-border youth peacebuilding initiatives supported.				Y1-3
	Support the meaningful participation of young women in peace processes at all levels for example, grants and capacity-building, and by facilitating mentoring programs and networking.  -Establish a national youth protection and reporting hotline/platform	Hotline/platform established and functional, with annual reporting on cases documented and addressed.  % of peace processes and agreements where young women and men are meaningfully represented.				Y 1-5

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Enhance the Legal & Policy Implementation mechanism to address the needs of young people better.	-Popularization of existing policies and awareness in simple English and local dialects/vernacular	% of youth with increased awareness of existing policies.	Baseline survey, midterm review and end-line survey Annual Reports Census	Participation Prevention Protection	Y1-5
	-Strengthening youth access to legal services: Provide legal literacy, human rights protection, and set up youth-friendly legal aid services to protect youth engagement in political activities.	% of youth accessing legal aid services (disaggregated by sex and disability).			Y1-5
	-Support youth-led initiatives to monitor the implementation of policies related to youth political inclusion	% Increase in documenting human rights abuse of young people.			Y1-5
	-Provide special legal support for youth pretrial detainees. Establish Independent Youth Oversight Mechanism	Number of initiatives where youth monitor policy implementation related to youth political inclusion. Number of pretrial detainees receiving special legal support.			Y1-5

Theme 4: Digital Literacy, Cybersecurity, and Inclusion

Enhance digital literacy, cybersecurity & inclusion	<div>-Establish/upgrade computer labs in select public high schools to include the Internet and a constant power supply to promote digital learning to ensure no one is left behind.</div> <div>-Establish digital hubs in the 15 counties to aid distance learning/online for young people</div> <div>-Establish Youth Peace and Security Resource Centers</div> <div>-Advocate for measures (low price for data and internet service, and</div>	<div>% increase in public high schools with upgraded computer labs, internet, and power supply.</div> <div>Number of digital hubs established in the counties.</div> <div>Number of Youth Peace and Security Resource Centers established.</div> <div>% of young people utilizing technology for innovation and problem-solving (disaggregated by sex and location).</div>	<div>Baseline survey, midterm review and end-line survey</div> <div>Annual Reports</div> <div>Census</div>	<div>MOE</div> <div>LTA</div> <div>Post &amp; Telecoms</div> <div>GSM</div> <div>Companies</div> <div>Universities/Colleges</div> <div>MYS</div> <div>MICAT</div> <div>MGCSP</div> <div>MoJ</div>	<div>Participation</div> <div>Prevention</div> <div>Partnership</div> <div>Protection</div>	<div>Y1-5</div> <div></div> <div>Y1-5</div> <div></div> <div>Y1-2</div> <div></div> <div>Y1-5</div>
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availability that strengthen existing infrastructures to support young people's digital innovations in Liberia.					Y1-3 Y1-5
-Advocate for legislation for personal data protection.  -Provide psychosocial support for young people exposed to threats and violence in cyberspace.	Passage and implementation of legislation for personal data protection.  % of young people reporting increased safety in cyberspace (disaggregated by sex).	Baseline survey, midterm review and end-line survey Annual Reports Census			
Raise awareness on issues related to digital media literacy and countering fake news, hate speech, misogyny, and discrimination online and offline.	% of youth with increased awareness of digital media literacy and countering harmful online content.				Y1-5

Theme 5: Environmental Sustainability						
Support climate-smart & inclusive communities – Addressing land	-Conduct climate change and waste management awareness	% of schools and communities reached by environmental	Baseline survey, midterm review and	EPA MIA	Participation Protection	Y1-5
issues and fostering youth engagement in environmental sustainability.	campaigns in Schools and Communities.  - Raise awareness about existing land governance-related policies and engage communities in promoting young people's rights to land ownership.	awareness campaigns.  Number of community sessions held across the country.  % of young people trained in waste management and recycling.  Number of platforms established for youth involvement in climate change planning and management.  % of concession	end-line survey  Annual reports  census  baseline surveys, midterm reviews	Ministry of Mines MOA LACRA MYS	Partnership	Y1-5
	-Establish platforms and mechanisms that actively involve youth in climate change-related planning and management					Y1-5



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	Promote youth participation in concession agreements, especially at the rural levels.	agreements including youth participation. Increase in youth access to land for farming and other activities.					Y1-5
	-Support youth networks and organizations working on climate-risk reduction and disaster preparedness, and partner with youth in identifying climate-related risks to peacebuilding.						

Theme 6: Gender Equality, Inclusion & Social Norms					
Reduce Gender-based discrimination and harmful practices.	Conduct awareness campaigns on the harmful effects of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	Passage and enforcement of legislation to end GBV, FGM and other harmful traditional practices. % of youth reporting increased knowledge and attitude change on gender equality and harmful practices.	Baseline survey, midterm review and end-line survey Annual Reports Census	MIA MGCSP MOH CSOs National Legislatures Women and Youth Groups NCD NUOD	Prevention Protection
	-Advocate for the passage of the bill to end FGM and other harmful traditional practices.				Y1-5
	-Conduct awareness campaigns to end child marriages, gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, intimate partner violence and teenage pregnancy. -Promote youth-led awareness	% of young survivors of GBV/violence accessing support services. % of young women and youth with disabilities in leadership/decision-making roles in awareness campaigns or			Y1-5

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campaigns on gender equality: Organize nationwide awareness drives in schools, communities, and media platforms to challenge gender stereotypes and harmful practices	reporting structures.					Y1-5
	% of young women with equal access to vocational training in various fields.  Number of safe and accessible mechanisms for young women to report violence and human rights violations.					
-Gender-Responsive Skills Development & Vocational Training: Ensure young women (including women with such as technology, engineering, and renewable energy						Y1-5
	Create safe, accessible, transparent, accountable, youth-friendly, and gender-responsive mechanisms for					

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	young people to report experiences of violence, human rights violations, and abuse, including all forms of GBV.				
Strengthen Inclusion & Accessibility	<p>-Advocate for the full implementation of section 5 of the NCD Act of 2005, which calls for the employment of people with disabilities in every sector of society</p> <p>-Conduct community awareness to discourage the stigmatization and discrimination of persons with disabilities and At-risk youth.</p>	<p>% of young people with disabilities employed across different sectors.</p> <p>Decrease in reported incidents of stigmatization and discrimination against people with disabilities and at-risk youth.</p> <p>% of youth with disabilities reporting improved accessibility and affordability of basic social services.</p>	Baseline survey, midterm review and end-line survey Annual Reports Census	Prevention Participation Protection	Y1-5

## IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS



## Coordination

The Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Internal Affairs will co-lead the overall coordination of the NAP under the umbrella of the Liberia National Coalition on Youth Peace and Security, in collaboration with youth groups, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other national and international partners, with technical support from the United Nations, led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) will spearhead resource mobilization with the support of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). At the same time, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) will ensure policy coherence and foster local government ownership and implementation of the NAP.

**Pillar 1: Participation: Ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in peacebuilding, governance, and decision-making at all levels.**

### Lead Institution(s):

Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)  
Ministry of Internal Affairs

### Supporting Institutions:

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning  
Federation of Liberian Youth  
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)  
National Elections Commission



**Pillar 2: Protection: Protect young people from all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.**

**Lead Institution(s):**

Ministry of Justice

**Supporting Institutions:**

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection  
Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
National Human Rights Commission  
Police and other Security Forces  
Liberian National Red Cross Society  
United Nations agencies  
International organizations

**Pillar 3: Prevention: Address the root causes of youth involvement in violence and strengthen youth resilience to radicalization.**

**Lead Institution(s):**

Ministry of Education

**Supporting Institutions:**

Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Ministry of Labor  
Religious and Traditional Leaders



**Pillar 4: Partnerships: Strengthen partnerships with youth, civil society, regional and international actors to promote peace and security.**

**Lead Institution(s):**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Supporting Institutions:**

Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
UN Agencies  
Regional Peace and Security Mechanisms  
CSOs  
INGOs

**Pillar 5: Disengagement and Reintegration: Support the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth formerly associated with armed groups/youth associated with drug abuse.**

**Lead Institution(s):**

Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Ministry of Health

**Supporting Institutions:**

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning  
Liberia Peacebuilding Office  
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)  
CSOs  
UN agencies





Representing the voices of the youth and the civil society, the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), as Co-Chairs of the Coalition, will lead the Coalition's daily operations, including organizing meetings and follow-ups on the NAP implementation process. They will represent the Coalition at key stakeholder forums and report directly to the Coalition Chair and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security.

Meanwhile, to ensure effective action, the Coalition has established task forces dedicated to:

1. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting
2. Programmes and Planning
3. Communications and Advocacy
4. Resource Mobilization



## MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK



The implementation of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security (NAP YPS) will be guided by a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework that not only tracks output but also consistently measures long-term societal impact. Recognizing that tracking output alone does not demonstrate meaningful change, this framework adopts the Vital Signs Framework, a tested and adaptable model for measuring peace and development outcomes across diverse contexts.

### Core Impact Areas

To ensure that all proposed and future activities contribute to a shared vision of progress, the M&E Framework will track a **standard set of impact indicators** across all interventions. These indicators reflect the lived experiences of young people and the broader societal shifts the NAP aims to influence:

1. **Agency:** The extent to which young people feel empowered to make decisions and influence change in their communities.
2. **Institutional Legitimacy:** The responsiveness of institutions to youth needs and the level of trust young people place in these institutions.
3. **Intergenerational Trust:** The quality of relationships and collaboration between youth and older generations, especially in intergenerational initiatives.
4. **Sense of Safety:** Young people's perceptions of physical, emotional, and psychological safety in their environments.
5. **Resources (Human and Capital):** The availability and accessibility of resources that support youth-led peace and security efforts.

### Reporting and Evaluation Cycle

- **Quarterly Updates:** Implementing institutions (coalition members, CSOs, and government actors) will submit brief progress updates every quarter.
- **Biannual Reports:** More detailed reports will be submitted twice a year, capturing both output-level data and progress on the core impact indicators.
- **Annual Report:** The Secretariat will compile and submit a comprehensive Annual Report to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, synthesizing all updates and reports.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation:** At the end of Year 2, an independent external evaluator will conduct a mid-term review, assessing progress against the five core impact areas. Detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) will be developed and advertised before this evaluation.



By embedding the **Vital Signs Framework** into the M&E process, this approach ensures that all stakeholders-especially young people-can see how their contributions are advancing the goals of the NAP. It also provides a consistent, evidence-based picture of the NAP's societal impact over the 3–5-year implementation period.

The implementation of this National Action Plan on Youth Peace and Security will be tracked through a clear and concise Monitoring and Evaluation Plan as defined below:

Written progress updates will be provided quarterly by various implementing institutions (coalition members and other CSOs, including government interventions). In contrast, progress reports will be made biannually (coalition members and other CSOs, including government interventions). The M/E framework will track how young men and women's sense of agency, Institutional Legitimacy Intergenerational Trust, Young people's understanding of safety, and Resources (human and capital) have improved.

At the end of each budget and program year, the secretariat will collate progress updates and bi-annual reports, submitting a comprehensive Annual Report on the implementation of the NAP YPS to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Additionally, at the end of two years, there will be a mid-term evaluation of the implementation by an external evaluator, who will track progress against outcomes. Before the mid-term review, a detailed Terms of Reference will be developed and advertised.



# RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY & ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY



The effective implementation of the Liberia National Action Plan on YPS requires adequate financial resources. This strategy outlines key approaches to mobilizing resources from national, international, and private sources, ensuring sustainable funding for youth-led peacebuilding initiatives. Below are the sources from which funding could be mobilized:

### **National Budget Allocation/Funding**

The Government of Liberia should prioritize YPS within its national budgeting framework by:

- Establishing dedicated budget lines for YPS programmes within relevant government ministries and agencies (e.g., Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice).
- Mainstreaming YPS funding into existing national development programmes and ensuring cross-ministerial collaboration for co-funding opportunities.
- Establishing an Inter-Ministerial Funding Committee.

### **International Partnerships and Donor Engagement**

Collaboration with international development partners, including UN agencies, regional organizations, and bilateral donors, can help secure funding through:

- Aligning YPS priorities with donor strategies and seeking program-based funding.
- Establishing multi-donor trust funds for YPS projects.
- Leveraging technical assistance and in-kind contributions from international partners.

### **Recommended Steps**

- Establishment of a joint programme for the NAP implementation by UN agencies.
- Development of a joint Government and Partners national resource mobilization framework to fund NAP interventions.
- Institute measures to access and identify youth-related funding mechanisms enshrined in the Corporate Social Responsibilities of concessions agreements.
- Engage the Private Sector and Philanthropic Institutions to diversify funding sources to ensure the following:
  - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, focusing on youth employment, peacebuilding, and social cohesion.
  - Private sector funding for youth-led peace initiatives and leadership programs.



- Development and implementation of innovative financing models such as social impact bonds and challenge grants to support YPS projects.

### **Youth-Friendly Funding Mechanisms**

Ensure direct access to funding for youth-led organizations by:

- Creating small grant schemes with simplified application and reporting processes.
- Establishing flexible funding mechanisms that prioritize grassroots and unregistered youth groups.
- Providing capacity-building support to enhance youth organizations' ability to manage funds effectively.

### **Recommended Steps**

- Establish a youth trust fund
- Seek legislative approval of a percentage of the Consolidated Account to fund the NAP YPS
- Organize NAP YPS annual fundraising program at Annual YPS Summit.



## **Advocacy and Communication Strategy**

### **Key Activities**

- Conduct targeted advocacy campaigns to secure political support and resource commitments
- Engage key decision-makers, including the Legislators and government officials, through policy briefs and high-level dialogues.
- Showcase success stories and impact through public communication channels to attract more investment in YPS initiatives.

### **Recommended Steps**

- Development of a NAP Communication Strategy
- Publication of a quarterly NAP newsletter
- Monthly YPS media engagements
- Expansion of NAP social media engagements
- Seeking sponsorship for NAP media engagements

### **Monitoring and Accountability**

To ensure transparency and efficiency in resource utilization, there will be:

- Implementation of budget tracking and financial audits for YPS programs.
- Establishment of participatory monitoring frameworks involving youth representatives.
- Regular publication of reports on YPS funding allocations and outcomes.





## COSTING FRAMEWORK



## **Costed Action Plan**

The costed action plan outlines the proposed funding required to implement critical priorities of the NAP YPS. It is presented based on the six priority areas, their related activities, cost estimates, responsible entities, and the timeframe for achieving the activities. These six priority areas were determined by participants drawn from various youth institutions, CSOs, and government institutions based on the key challenges faced by young people in Liberia, identified during both the consultation exercises and the Design Workshop.



NATIONAL FRAMEWORK/ACTION ON UNSCR 2250

Priority Area One: Youth Social Protection and Economic Empowerment					
Related Activities	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	Responsible Entity	Timeline
Develop and implement market-driven vocational training programs aligned with national development priorities that contribute to peace, paying particular attention to young women, migrants, internally displaced persons, and refugees	5	75,000	375,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, FLY, CSO	Y1-5
Establish Microfinance Programs focused on young men and women to reduce vulnerabilities.	5	65,000	325,000	MYS, FLY, MFDP, LRA	Y 1-5
Launch Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Grants that incentivize youth businesses that contribute to social cohesion.	5	150,000	750,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, LRA, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y 1-3
Implement Financial Literacy Training	3	100,000	300,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, LRA, MOE, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y 1 – 3
Enhance the national youth vocational training program and placement for high school graduates	5	200,000	1,000,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, MOE, FLY	Y 1 – 5
Scale up the cadet programme to all counties.	5	50,000	250,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, MOE, FLY	Y 1 – 5
Support comprehensive reintegration processes through productive activities for at-risk youth.	3	60,000	180,000	MYS, MOE, CSOs, WANEP, FLY	Y 1-5
Integrate Technology in Learning and create opportunities to increase young people's sense of shared identity and community belonging.	3	50,000	150,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, MOE, FLY	Y1-3
Establish Scholarship Opportunities for young people that are related to Governance and peacebuilding.	2	200,000	400,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, MOE, MFA, FLY	Y1-5
Develop, integrate, and roll out a competency-based curriculum on peace education within the national school curriculum.	1	150,000	150,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, MOE, FLY	Y1

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Promote increased access to sexual and reproductive health care for youth.	5	100,000	500,000	MYS, MRCSP, MOH, FLY, CSOs	Y1-5
Create awareness on how the denial and discouragement of young pregnant girls' access to education is a human rights violation.	2	50,000	100,000	MYS, MRCSP, MOH, MOE, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y1-2
Create awareness on mental health and drug abuse. Provide treatment and psychosocial services for disadvantaged young people.	5	70,000	350,000	MOH, MGCSP, MYS, CSOs, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y1-5
Enhance access to mental health services in high-need areas, including police stations, schools, and prisons.	5	100,000	500,000	MOH, MoJ, MYS, MIA, MGCSP, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y1-5
Conduct drug enforcement policy awareness in communities	4	30,000	120,000	IDEA, LNP, LIS, MIA, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y1-5
		<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$5,450,000</b>		
<b>Priority AREA Two: Youth Representation and Meaningful Participation in Governance</b>					
<b>Related Activities</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Responsible Entity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Advocate for 30 percent quota for Youth Representation in the Governance mechanisms at the national and county levels.	2	30,000	60,000	MYS, FLY, CSOs, WANEP, MGCSP, MOE	Y1-2
Launch Participatory Budgeting initiatives at the national and county levels	3	25,000	75,000	CSOs, MFDP, MIA, CBOS, FLY	Y 1-3
Scale up National Youth Services & Volunteer Programs	3	50,000	150,000	MYS, MFDP, MGCSP, FLY	Y1-3
Promote Peer-to-Peer Civic Engagement Networks	3	100,000	300,000	MYS, MGCSP, MIA	Y1-3
Strengthen umbrella youth-led organizations: Provide technical and financial support to youth organizations to effectively reflect youth interests	5	75,000	375,000	MYS, MFDP, MGCSP, MIA,	Y1-5
Hold annual YPS Forum/Summit	5	35,000	175,000	MYS, MIA, MFA, MFDP, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y1-5
Provide small grants to YPS coalition members to support NAP implementation	5	100,000	500,000	MYS, MIA, MFDP, LNBA, MYS	Y1-5
Ensure youth involvement and meaningful participation in peace processes and peace agreements	1	60,000	60,000	MIA, FLY, CSOs, WANEP, CBOS	Y 1-5
		<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,695,000</b>		

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Priority Area Three: Reduce Political Violence and Polarization					
Related Activities	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	Responsible Entity	Timeline
Train media institutions on peace reporting	2	45,000	90,000	MICAT, PUL, WANEP	Y1-2
Train youth-led organizations in conflict mitigation to conduct community awareness.	3	100,000	300,000	MIA, PBO, LPAO, CSOs, INCHR, NCSC, WANEP	Y1-3
Support the meaningful participation of young women in peace processes at all levels through, for example, grants and capacity-building, and by facilitating mentoring programs and networking.	5	100,000	500,000	PBO, WANEP, FLY, CSOs, WANEP, MGCSP	Y1-5
Establish a National Youth Protection and Reporting Hotline/Platform	1	100,000	100,000	FLY, CSOs, WANEP, CBOS	Y1-5
Support cross-border collaboration among young peacebuilders	5	15,000	75,000	LIS, MOJ, FLY, MIA, CBOS, CSOs, WANEP	Y1-5
Train young peace ambassadors for community engagement in peacebuilding and conflict resolution	5	50,000	250,000	PBO, MYS, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y1-5
Popularize the existing peacebuilding-related policies by creating awareness in simple English and local dialects/vernacular	4	30,000	120,000	MYS, FLY, CSOs, WANEP	Y1-5
Strengthening youth access to legal services: Provide a legal support program and set up youth-friendly legal aid services to guide youth engagement in political activities and monitor the implementation of policies related to youth political inclusion	5	30,000	150,000	MOJ, MYS, MFDP, MGCSP	Y1-5
Support youth-led initiatives to monitor the implementation of policies related to youth political inclusion	4	75,000	300,000	MYS, CSOs, FLY, WANEP	Y1-5
Provide special legal support for youth pretrial detainees.	5	20,000	100,000	INCHR, MOJ, MIA, MYS, CSOs	Y1-5

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Establish Independent Youth Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms:	1	40,000	40,000	MYS, CSOs, FLY	Y 1
		Sub Total	\$2,025,000		
Priority Area Four: Digital Literacy, Cybersecurity, and Inclusion					
Related Activities	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	Responsible Entity	Timeline
Establish/upgradecomputer labs in select public high schools to includeinternet access and a constant power supply, promoting digital learning (support the maintenance of computer labs) Establish digital hubs in the 15 counties to aid distance learning/online for young people, including training and equipment	5	10,000	50,000	MYS, MOE, CSOs	Y 1-5
Establish and run Youth Peace and Security Resource Centers (with the 15 superintendents to allot spaces within the service centers)	5	150,000	750,000	MYS, LTA, MOE, MICAT, FLY	Y1-5
Strengthening existing infrastructures with internet equipment and gadgets to support young people's digital innovations in Liberia Support legislation for Personal Data protection to safeguard young people	5	50,000	250,000	MYS, LTA, MOE, MICAT, MoPT, FLY	
Develop policies and other protection measures to support young people exposed to threats in cyberspace. Raise awareness on issues related to digital media literacy and countering fake news, hate speech, misogyny, and discrimination online and offline	2	50,000	100,000	NSA, Legislature	Y1-2
	5	50,000	250,000	LTA and related Security Institutions, MYS, FLY, CSOs, MGCSO,	Y1-5
	5	30,000	150,000	Media, CSOs, FLY, MoPT, LTA, GSM Companies	Y 1-5
		Sub Total	\$2,300,000		
Priority Area Five: Environmental Sustainability					
Related Activities	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	Responsible Entity	Timeline
Conduct sustainableenvironment awareness campaigns in Schoolsand Communities.	5	50,000	250,000	NDMA, EPA, MOA,MYS, MIA, LACRA, FLY, LINSU and MRUYP-LC	Y1-5

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Build the capacities of young people in waste management and recycling, and provide material support.	5	100,000	500,000	EPA, MOA, MYS, MIA, LACRA, FLY, LINSU, City Corporation, CSOs, and MRUY-P-LC	Y1-5
Advocate for the inclusion of youth residing in concession areas in the negotiation of concession agreements	2	50,000	60,000	YPSC, CBOS, CSOs, EPA, MOA, MYS, MIA, LACRA, FLY, LINSU, CSOs, and MRU, MBC, PBO, Media/Radio, MOJ	Y1-5
Raise awareness about existing land governance-related policies and engage communities in promoting young people's rights to land ownership.	3	50,000	150,000	LLA, MIA, CSOs, Communities, CBOS	Y 1-3
Create opportunities for young people to collaborate and co-create with elders, authorities, and other adults in communities by jointly organizing activities – community clean-ups, cultural celebrations, sports tournaments – thus providing communities with the opportunity to experience intergenerational collaboration in practice and social cohesion.	5	80,000	400,000	FLY, EPA, MIA, Communities, CBOS, Companies, MYS, CSOs, WANEP	Y 1-5
Establish platforms and mechanisms that actively involve youth in climate change-related planning and management	5	50,000	250,000	EPA, FLY, CSOs	Y 1-5
Build on existing land policies to provide young women and men with access to land rights for farming and other productive activities.	2	50,000	100,000	YPSC, CBOS, CSOs, EPA, MOA, MYS, MIA, LACRA, FLY, LINSU, CSOs and MRU	Y1-5

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Support youth networks and organizations working on climate-risk reduction and disaster preparedness, and partner with youth in identifying climate-related risks to peacebuilding.	5	60,000	300,000	EPA, CSOs, FLY, PBO, Communities, CSOs, WANEP	Y 1-4
		Sub Total	\$1,960,000		
Priority/AreaSix: Gender Equality, Inclusion & SocialNorms: Gender-basedDiscrimination and HarmfulPractices,Inclusion & Accessibility					
Related Activities	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	Responsible Entity	Timeline
Conduct an awareness campaign on the harmful effects of FemaleGenital Mutilation (FGM) and other harmful traditionalpractices.	5	30,000	150,000	MIA MGCSP MOH CSOs CBOS Women and Youth Groups, UN-WOMEN UNFPA	Y1-5
Advocate for the passage of the bill to end FGM and other harmful traditional practices.	2	30,000	60,000	MGCSP, CSOs, Legislature, MIA, WANEP	Y 1-2
Conduct advocacy and awareness campaigns on ending child marriage, gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and teenage pregnancy.	5	60,000	300,000	MIA MGCSP MOH CSOs CBOS Women and Youth Groups, UN-WOMEN UNFPA	Y1-5
Youth-Led Awareness Campaigns on Gender Equality: Organize nationwide awareness drives in schools, communities, and media platforms to challenge gender stereotypes and harmful practices.	5	40,000	200,000	NCD NUOD MGCSP CSOs CBOS Women and Youth Groups,	Y1-5



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## ANNEXES



## Mapping of Existing YPS Initiatives and Gaps

Project/Initiative	Aim	Entity	Link to Priority Themes
Accelerating Digital Opportunities for Youth Civic Participation as a Lever for Building and Sustaining Peace in Liberia	The project aims to increase youth participation opportunities in civic decision-making by digitalizing existing youth and women-led informal platforms, thereby contributing to peacebuilding and social cohesion.	UNFPA, UN Women, OHCHR	
"Enhancing Social Cohesion through Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Marginalized Youth in Liberia"	This project seeks to reduce the use of illicit drugs amongst marginalized youth through comprehensive behavior change and drug prevention interventions, including treatment, mental health support, SGBV prevention, rehabilitation, and economic livelihood interventions, and rebuilding community trust for	Government of Liberia, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP	



	<p>existing Early Warning and Response (EWER) mechanisms, including through mainstreaming of human rights, gender, and youth-based approaches, at the grassroots level. The Project supports a response to actual and perceived triggers of electoral violence by integrating a variety of actors into EWER mechanism. The activities will support training and capacity development of state security apparatus, CBOs, media, and other actors, joint peaceful electoral planning, community outreach including through mass media, peace messaging, grassroots peace advocacy by civil society, as well as mediation, monitoring, and reporting</p>		
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Girls and Young Women Act for Peace	The project aims to increase girls' and young women's agency and ability to participate in peacebuilding processes meaningfully by strengthening the capacities of girl and women-led groups, Peace Huts, and women-led CSOs and create stronger linkages between these groups and wider district and county peacebuilding processes and networks.	Plan International-Liberia	
Digital Empowerment for Peacebuilding and Advocacy	The Digital Empowerment for Peacebuilding and Advocacy is to equip youth and civil society organizations (CSOs) with essential digital skills to enhance their peacebuilding and advocacy efforts. Through targeted training, participants will gain the knowledge and tools needed to utilize digital	African Youth Fellowship (AYF)	Limited access to and knowledge in the use of the internet as well as computer and web-based application thus leading to cyber bullying, and cyber insecurity.



	platforms for positive social change to effectively utilize digital platforms for positive social change effectively. The program also focuses on developing digital content and campaigns that promote peace, social cohesion, and counter misinformation. Additionally, it fosters an online community where youth and CSO actors can engage in continuous dialogue, share best practices, and collaborate on advocacy initiatives that contribute to sustainable peace and inclusive development.		
AYF Youth Assembly	To empower youth leaders with knowledge and advocacy skills to actively promote sustainable peace.		



Run 4 Peace	It aims to raise awareness about the vital role each individual plays in maintaining and strengthening Liberia's peace. To ensure that the message of stability and harmony reaches a wide audience. Additionally, the objective is to strengthen community engagement by involving all members, including vulnerable groups to reinforce peaceful coexistence and resilience.		
Annual Youth Peace and Security Forum	The forum seeks to address the challenges young people face in the realm of peace and security. The forum aimed to provide a platform for Liberian youths to engage in critical discussions, share experiences, and generate actionable recommendations for improving youth	Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY)	Participation, Partnership, Prevention



	involvement in peace and security efforts. It brought together participants from rural and urban parts of Liberia, past and present youth leaders, and key partners to brainstorm how young people can meaningfully contribute to sustaining peace and institutionalizing the YPS agenda in Liberia.		
Bridging Peace and Technology	Under the Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI), FLY implemented the Bridging Peace and Technology Project, funded by UNFPA, UN Women, and UN Peacebuilding Fund, through the YMCA. The project focused on enhancing Youth Peace and Security through Digital Literacy.	Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY)	Participation, Disengagement and Reintegration, Prevention, Partnership
Young Women in Peacebuilding Project	The Young Women in Peacebuilding	Peace Agents Network (PAN)	Participation Partnership Prevention





	<p>Project, supported by the Peace First small grant, seeks to strengthen young women's effective participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes at all levels. The project identified that young women need to be supported to recognize their rights, address their basic needs, and ensure their participation in the development and implementation of policies that affect their lives.</p>		
<p>The European Union Nextgen Peacemakers (NEXT-P) - Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and crisis preparedness</p>	<p>This is a \$1,000,000 call for proposals that was launched by the EU 2024 to strengthen YPS capacities in Liberia. Under this call, the priority for Liberia is "Strengthening the Youth Peace and Security agenda in Liberia: creating an inclusive and enabling environment in</p>	European Union	<p>Partnership Prevention Participation Protection Disengagement and Reintegration</p>



	<p>which young women and men safely and meaningfully participate in matters related to peace and security and/or in transitional justice processes". It is considered an added value to address both aspects.</p>		
<p>Youth4Peace Activity in Liberia</p>	<p>The USAID-funded Youth for Peace Activity in Liberia, implemented by Catholic Relief Service (CRS), aims to empower young Liberians with life skills, vocational training, and peacebuilding knowledge. This initiative focuses on preparing young people to overcome challenges like substance abuse, mental health issues, and complex backgrounds. The project also incorporates community mediation training and promotes</p>	<p>USAID and Catholic Relief Services (CRS)</p>	<p>Disengagement and Reintegration Prevention Protection Participation Partnership</p>



	youth involvement in peacebuilding processes.		
YPS Peacebuilding and Social Inclusion through Community Dialogue (PSICD)	The Program supported by Sweden aims to enable young people to become active contributors toward sustaining peace and strengthening social cohesion in Liberia, framed around the pillars of the UNSCR 2250. At least 17,780 are empowered and socially transformed to unlock their potential, connect to social inclusion opportunities, gain experience to contribute to peace, and lead in their community peacebuilding and development initiatives as change agents.	YMCA-Liberia	Protection Participation Prevention Partnership
Bridging Accessibility and Digital Skills for Youth with disabilities	Bridging Accessibility and Digital Skills for Youth with Disabilities", aimed at empowering PWDs with the necessary skills to	National Union of Organizations of the Disabled (NUOD)	Participation Prevention



	thrive in the digital space, fostering inclusivity in peacebuilding, and supporting the ongoing efforts to promote sustainable peace and social cohesion in Liberia.		
Digital Bridge - Enhancing Peacebuilding and Gender Advocacy Through Technology	<p>The Digital Bridge - Enhancing Peacebuilding and Gender Advocacy Through Technology project was implemented by the Liberia National Students Union (LINSU) under the Youth Promotion Initiative to empower young people with digital tools for promoting peace and gender equality. The initiative focused on building the capacity of student leaders and youth advocates to use technology for social change, especially in preventing violence and amplifying gender-sensitive messaging. It</p>	Liberia National Students' Union (LINSU)	Partnership Prevention Protection Participation Disengagement and Reintegration



	<p>included digital literacy training, online advocacy campaigns, and dialogue sessions to promote peaceful coexistence and gender inclusion. The project also created a platform for students to document and share stories of peace and resilience using digital media. Through this initiative, LINSU contributed to strengthening youth engagement in peacebuilding and gender advocacy in Liberia.</p>		
<p>Digitalizing Peacebuilding, Civil Engagement and Advocacy Efforts in Liberia (Montserrado and Lofa Counties)</p>	<p>The "Digitalizing Peacebuilding, Civil Engagement and Advocacy Efforts in Liberia" project, implemented by the Mano River Union Youth Parliament – Liberia Chapter, focused on leveraging digital tools to strengthen youth involvement</p>	<p>Mano River Union Youth Parliament - Liberia Chapter</p>	<p>Participation Prevention Partnership Protection</p>



	<p>in peace and civic processes in Montserrado and Lofa Counties. It trained young people in digital literacy, online advocacy, and virtual dialogue facilitation to promote peaceful coexistence and accountable governance. The initiative enhanced youth capacity to use technology for tracking social issues, reporting conflicts, and engaging policymakers through digital platforms.</p>		
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## Issues/Challenges Identified

Political	Economic	Social	Technological	Environmental	Land
<p>1. Underrepresentation of young people in political dialogues and processes</p> <p>2. Violence and Political intolerance, especially from hate speeches and inflammatory messages</p> <p>3. Stigmatization /Discrimination and bullying due to gender stereotypes, prejudices and biases that hinder active</p>	<p>5. Poverty and food insecurity</p> <p>6. Little or no employment opportunities for the vast majority of young people</p> <p>7. Where there are some forms of employment for skilled young professionals (health workers and teachers) with both formal and informal jobs, the salary is so low and</p>	<p>10. Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)</p> <p>11. Teenage pregnancy remains high hampering young women for actualizing their full potentials</p> <p>12. Poor health Service Delivery in most cases hampering the sexual and reproductive health rights of girls</p>	<p>16. Limited access to and knowledge in the use of internet as well as computer and web-based applications thus leading to cyber bullying, and cyber insecurity</p> <p>17. Little or knowledge in the use of information technology especially in rural and peri-urban areas where the majority of young people live</p>	<p>18. Pollution (destruction of ozone layer) and from unregulated disposal of solid waste across Liberia including on urban areas</p> <p>19. Adverse effects of climate change also from deforestation (leading to increase of violence against women) in some instances</p> <p>20. Flooding (perhaps artificial or human-made) due to poor sanitation leading to various kinds of air-borne diseases, and infestations</p>	<p>21. Limited or no access to land especially for young women in rural areas</p>
<p>of most young women</p> <p>4. Little or no political will to implement the 2005 Act establishing the National Commission on Persons with Disabilities (PWD) by employing 4% of PWD, in every Government Ministry and Agency</p>	<p>for a decent living even at the minimum</p> <p>8. High increase in criminality</p> <p>9. Abject poverty</p>	<p>13. Drug addiction /substance abuse</p> <p>14. SGBV (Rape, Sodomy and abortion)</p> <p>15. High criminal rate contributing the fear, insecurity and other vices</p>			



## Institutions Consulted

	<b>YOUTH-LED INSTITUTIONS</b>	
1	Federation of Liberian Youth	FLY
2	Liberia National Student Union	LINSU
3	Mano River Youth Parliament	MRYP
4	National Union of Disabled Organizations	NUDO
5	Young Ambassadors for Peace	YAP
6	UN Youth Advisory Panel	UNYAP
7	Liberia Youth Foundation	LYF
8	Messengers of Peace Liberia	MOP Liberia
9	Action for Girls Empowerment	AGE
10	Peace Agents Network (PAN)	PAN
11	Young Men's Christian Association	YMCA
12	Paramount Young Women's Initiative	PYWI
13	Liberia Scout Association	LSA
14	Sister Aid Liberia	SAL
15	National Federation of Motorcycle and Tricycle Association of Liberia	NAFOMTAL
	<b>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</b>	
1	Women NGO Secretariat	WONGOSOL
2	Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding	CEMSP
3	Liberian Youth Voices for Accelerating ICDP	LYV4ICPD
4	West African Network for Peacebuilding	WANEP
5	Paramount Young Women Initiative	PAYOWI
6	Community Healthcare Initiative	CHI
7	Female Journalists Association of Liberia	FEJAL
8	Naymote Partners for Democratic Development	NPDD
9	Center for Sustainable Development & Education in Africa	CESDA
10	Liberia Peacebuilding Office	PBO
11	Alliance for Peace, Justice, and Human Rights	APJHR
	<b>GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS</b>	
1	Ministry of Justice	MOJ
2	Independent National Commission on Human Rights	INCHR
3	Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission	LRRRC
4	Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency	LDEA
5	Ministry of Labor	MOL
6	National Bureau of Concession	NBC
7	Ministry of Education	MOE
8	Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection	MOGCSP
9	Chair - House Committee on Youth and Sports, House of Representatives	
10	The Office of the Liberia Peace Ambassador	MIA





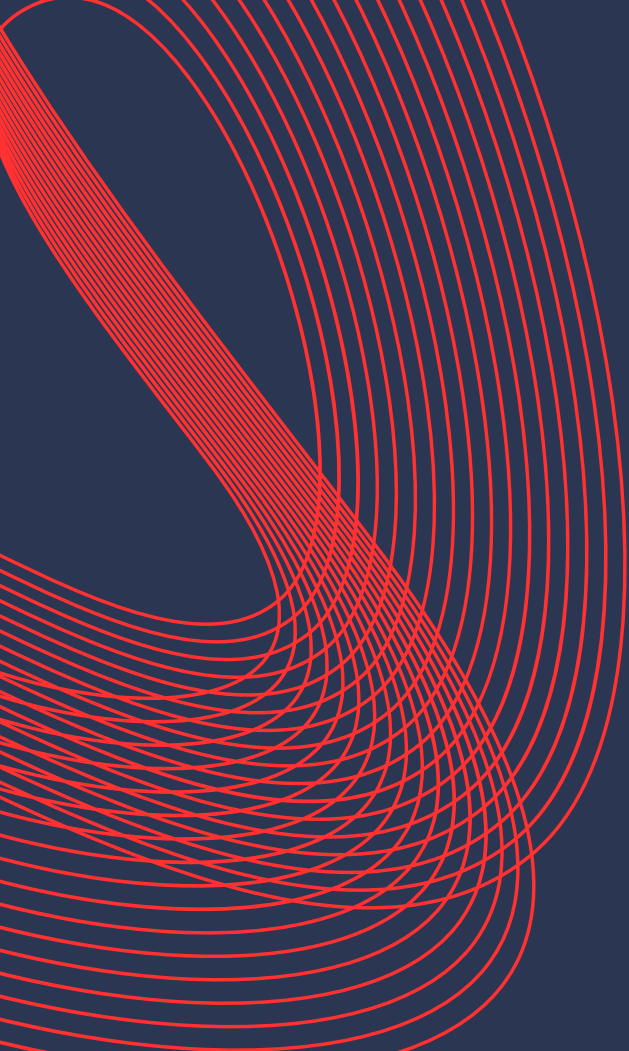
11	Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information	LISGIS
12	Liberia National Police	LNP
13	Ministry of Internal Affairs	MIA
14	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	MOFA
15	Ministry of Finance Development Planning	MOFDP
16	Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism	MICAT
17	Liberia Immigration Services	LIS
18	Chair - Senate Committee on Youth and Sports	
19	Bureau of State Enterprises	BSE
20	Liberia Peacebuilding Office	PBO
21	Ministry of Health	MOH

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## Translating the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda into Action

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