



MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE NOTICES

Liberia Investment, Finance, and Trade (LIFT) Project

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: (P171997)

Disclosure of Environmental and Social Instruments: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); Final Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP); Labor Management Procedures (LMP); and Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP)

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning of the Republic of Liberia has applied for financing from the World Bank in the tone of *US\$40 million* for the implementation of the *Liberia Investment, Finance, and Trade (LIFT) Project: P171997*.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the LIFT Project is *to improve the investment climate, expand access to finance, and facilitate trade in Liberia*. The PDO Level Indicators comprise the following:

- Improved efficiency of trade transactions (share of trade transactions using NSW, %),
- Improved efficiency of business licensing (share of license types processed through OSS, %)
- Private investments committed (US\$ millions)
- Number of supply-chains/clusters with new linkages that involve SMEs
- Number of SMEs with access to credit (gender disaggregated, loans via line of credit)
- Increased usage of digital financial services (annual volume on national switch, US\$)

The Intermediate Outcome / Output Indicators comprise:

- Number of policies, regulations, procedures, and institutional improvements passed/adopted/improved.
- Private investment leads (US\$)
- Beneficiary satisfaction with NSW and SME skills training (% , gender disaggregated)
- Number of NSW users (gender disaggregated)
- Improved online presence of business licensing (share of license types available on OSS, %)
- Number of SMEs receiving relevant training (gender disaggregated)
- NPL ratio of Line of Credit portfolios at PFIs (%) and
- Increased coverage by switch (number of institutions connected)

To support the Government of Liberia (GoL) in facilitating private investment and trade, and supporting businesses during the economic recovery, the project will support activities organized under three complementary components: *trade and investment-enabling environment; SME access to markets and finance support; digital financial services/DFS infrastructure support; together with a fourth component for project management, M&E (Monitoring & Evaluation) and a CERC (or Contingency Emergency Response Component).*

The US\$40 million LIFT Project is closely aligned with the objectives of the medium-term development plan, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018-2023 and the World Bank Group's (WBG) Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Liberia.

The project supports a Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET) framework for Liberia and its two pillars on which the outcomes sit: creating and connecting markets, and more productive entrepreneurs. In addition to its contribution to the Jobs agenda, the proposed project design supports a range of International Development Association (IDA19) priorities including Gender, Climate, Governance, Fragility, Conflict & Violence (FCV) and Private Capital Enabling (PCE). The project incorporates in its design features that seek to address the identified gaps between men and women with respect to their participation in economic activity in the country, especially around differential constraints, and performance between women-owned and men-owned firms. Finally, as a foundational project to strengthen the public sector's ability to facilitate growth of the private sector on a sustainable basis, significant efforts will be devoted to institution building activities in key agencies. The proposed project will be implemented through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI).

As required by the World Bank, the MOCI has prepared appropriate environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts management instruments including:

1. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF),
2. The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP-Final),
3. Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and
4. The Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP).

These documents are required to form part of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) for the LIFT Project. The frameworks would guide mitigation of any potential E&S risks and impacts associated with the project. The ESMF, draft ESCP, LMP and the SEP have been prepared in consultation with different stakeholders at national level. The instruments are consistent with Liberian laws, such as the Environmental Protection and Management Law of 2003, ESIA Guidelines issued by the EPA and international conventions ratified or recognized by the Government of Liberia. They are also consistent with the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF) and relevant WB Group Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines.

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF): This reviews the relevant Liberian laws and policies applicable to the Project and it sets out the rules, guidelines, processes, and procedures to identify, assess, evaluate and mitigate the potential E&S risks and impacts associated with the LIFT Project. It defines appropriate control measures by either avoiding, eliminating, reducing, mitigating, and offsetting such E&S risks and impacts. The ESMF further establishes institutional roles, arrangements, and collaboration for the successful implementation of the Project in a sustainable manner.

The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP-Final): This looks at the implementation of material measures and actions with clearly defined timelines so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). Under the ESCP, the Government of Liberia through MOCI shall also comply with the provisions of any other environmental and social (E&S) documents required under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan, the Labor Management Procedure (LMP) and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.

Labor Management Procedure (LMP): The LMP has been developed with the purpose of protecting the health, safety, rights and wellbeing of project workers who will be engaged during the implementation of the LIFT Project. It is also intended to promote equal opportunity and non-discrimination in the management of the workforce taking into consideration both national and international labor requirements including the World Bank's Standard on Labor and Working Conditions (Environment and Social Standard 2).

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP): The overall objective of the SEP is to provide the roadmap for project communications and active consultations with stakeholders to engage them in the design and delivery of the project. The roadmap includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about project and any activities related to the project.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is, through this publication, giving the public:

Notice of disclosure for the above-mentioned E&S instruments as part of the requirements of the World Bank's ESF.

Hard copies of the documents can be found at the following offices:

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Offices of the Minister, Deputy Ministers and the PIU); the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP); the National Investment Commission; the Central Bank of Liberia, the Liberia Business Association and the Liberia Chamber of Commerce.

The instruments can also be found on the following website:

1. Ministry of Commerce and Industry Website:

https://moci.gov.lr/doc/Public%20Disclosure%20of%20Final%20SEP_LIFT%20Project_Liberia.pdf

https://moci.gov.lr/doc/Public%20Disclosure%20of%20Final%20LMP_LIFT%20Project_Liberia.pdf

https://moci.gov.lr/doc/Public%20Disclosure%20of%20Final%20ESMF_LIFT%20Project_Liberia_1.pdf

https://moci.gov.lr/doc/Public%20Disclosure%20of%20Draft%20ESCP_LIFT%20Project_Liberia.pdf

Final ESCP on MOCI's Website:

[Final ESCP_LIFT Project_Liberia_13-01-2022 \(1\).pdf \(moci.gov.lr\)](https://moci.gov.lr/doc/Public%20Disclosure%20of%20Final%20ESCP_LIFT%20Project_Liberia_13-01-2022%20(1).pdf)

2. For Executive Mansion Website:

[https://www.emansion.gov.lr/doc/Public%20Disclosure%20of%20Final%20ESMF LIFT%20Project Liberia.pdf](https://www.emansion.gov.lr/doc/Public%20Disclosure%20of%20Final%20ESMF%20LIFT%20Project%20Liberia.pdf)

1. For Liberia Revenue Authority Website

[PUBLIC NOTICES – Liberia Revenue Authority \(ira.gov.lr\)](https://ira.gov.lr/PUBLIC%20NOTICES)

For further enquiries or clarifications on this disclosure, please contact:

Julius Y. SAYE KEH-NEL & Prince Wreh

Interim PIU/Office of the Minister

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

+231 (0)0886822025/777201863/880286628

Email: jsayekehnel@gmail.com / prince_wreh@yahoo.com

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