

# UN FOCUS



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## The Liberia Moment: Transiting from peacekeeping to sustainable peace-building and pro-poor development.

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“My life has changed for the better” - UNWOMEN empowers business women

Preventing an outbreak: health assistants bring care to Liberia’s remote communities



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### Message from UN Resident Coordinator, Yacoub El Hillo

**L**iberia held its third democratic elections since the civil conflict which witnessed a peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected President to another in 74 years. The elections

ushered in President George M. Weah as Head of State and of the 54th Legislature, and a new government. This demonstrated the country's political maturity to the rest of the world.

On the 30th March 2018, United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) ended its mandate in Liberia after over 14 years of peacekeeping. During that period, some 202 personnel lost their lives while on duty to bring peace to Liberia, and with great regret we share our sympathy with their families, friends and loved ones. Their sacrifices and the effort of the United Nations have transformed the Liberia significantly from a peacekeeping nation to a country on the path to peacebuilding and sustainable development, and this is something that the pages of history will never forget.

The Liberia Moment held on the 23rd March 2018 brought together H.E. President George M. Weah, UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed, Ambassador Olof Skoog, Hon. Speaker of the National Legislature Bhofal Chambers, Deputy Special Representative of

the Secretary General Farid Zarif, Government Ministers, United Nations System in Liberia, Development Partners, ECOWAS, African Union, the World Bank and Civil Society among others.

It was an opportunity for the Government, United Nations and development partners to recognise the existential peacebuilding priorities and developmental challenges facing Liberia, and to affirm their commitment and continued engagement in addressing them. It will also be an opportunity for the Government to build the trust of citizens by reassuring them of commitment to, focus on and ambition for sustainable and inclusive development for Liberia in collaboration with partners under the existing bi and multi-lateral frameworks.

Lastly, UNMIL's mandate has ended and would be leaving Liberia but there are seventeen UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes that will continue to support the government and its people in peacebuilding, achieving the Pro-poor agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in moving the country forward.

I want to reassure you that the UN is not leaving with UNMIL but will remain and continue to support the Government of Liberia through the UN Country Team.

**Yacoub El Hillo**  
**UN Resident Coordinator,**  
**UNDP Resident Representative &**  
**Officer-In-Charge, UNMIL**

### Message from UNCG Chair, Suleiman Braimoh

**T**his is the first issue of UN Focus produced by the UN Country Team's Communications Group, hence the renumbering on the front page. However, it is a continuation of the UN Focus newsletter which was produced by the UN Mission's Public Information Office over the past several years. This is one of many initiatives that will continue after the conclusion of UNMIL's mandate at the end of March 2018.

We hope to continue using the newsletter to raise awareness on the work of all UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, as well as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund that make up the UN Country Team in Liberia. The newsletter will also serve as an advocacy tool.

In this edition, we focus on the 'Liberia Moment' event, the UN Mission's end of mandate and departure, as well as numerous other UN supported and implemented initiatives that are helping improve the lives of people across Liberia. Please feel free to send us comments and suggestions. The contact details are on the last page.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

**Suleiman Braimoh, PhD.**  
**Chair, UN Communications Group**  
**UNICEF Representative in Liberia**



# The Liberia Moment: transiting from peacekeeping to sustainable peacebuilding and pro-poor development.

A high-level event ‘The Liberia Moment’ was held on 23 March 2018 in Monrovia to enable the new Government of Liberia to articulate its framework of development and provide a forum for development partners and donors to pledge their support to help the country achieve these priorities.

‘The Liberia Moment’ event was attended by the H.E. President George M. Weah, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, Chairman of the Liberia Configuration of the Peace Building Commission H.E. Ambassador Olof Skoog, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNMIL, Farid Zarif, Speaker of the House of Representative Hon Bhofal Chambers, officials of government, the UN family and Development Partners among others.

In his address, President George M. Weah recommitted to good governance, fighting corruption, promoting transparency and encouraging an investment climate that welcomes new entrants, foreign and domestic. He said that the administration’s pro-poor growth will seek to benefit the vulnerable, promote inclusion and will be inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals. Looking forward, the President proposed holding a series of stakeholder consultations to finalize his Government’s vision for a National Development Agenda addressing poverty in Liberia and aiming to uplift the economic status of the poor and vulnerable, most notably women and youth.

The United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, H.E. Amina J. Mohammed said, “The launch of



R-L: H.E. President George M. Weah, Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Farid Zarif. Photo: Lesley Wright/UNDP

this extensive consultation process is a very promising start. I call upon all the people of Liberia to seize this opportunity to express their needs and voice their views and concerns and help define the future they want for Liberia. I also urge donor countries to continue to invest in Liberia and to stand by this country as it lifts itself out of conflict and poverty into a brighter day. The international community must continue to demonstrate its commitment to Liberians who have done so much to help themselves over the past fifteen years.”

Participants stressed that a conscientious application of a gender perspective unlocking the capacity of the entire population, men and women alike, is not only fair, it also makes profound economic sense. Delegations attending the event affirmed their commitment to stay the course and continue the journey alongside the Liberian people and Government as the country moves to consolidate its democracy, pursue prosperity for all, and protect the environment through the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event was also an opportunity to bid farewell to UNMIL.

The event celebrated UNMIL’s invaluable peacekeeping accomplishment and its support to Liberia’s progress over the

last fourteen years in holding three democratic elections, one of which witnessed a transfer of power from one living President to another after 43 years; defeating the Ebola Virus Disease and rebuilding many sectors, including the improvement of governance and rule of law. She also emphasized that the United Nations will remain in Liberia to support the Government and citizens. “The UN stands ready to mobilize support to trigger investment for the development of Liberia and foster these partnerships with key actors.

H.E. Mohammed also highlighted that seventeen UN Agencies Funds and Programmes will remain in Liberia supporting the government in relation to their diverse mandates, and support the achievement of the new National Pro-Poor Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

H.E. Ambassador Olof Skoog, Chairman of the Liberia Configuration of the Peace Building Commission, explained key peacebuilding priorities of the UN in the new phase of Liberia beyond UNMIL drawdown. These include security sector development, strengthening the rule of law; promoting national reconciliation, peaceful and inclusive elections; respect for Human Rights; the promotion of a comprehensive people-centered approach; and a focus on building trust.

## Preventing an outbreak: health assistants bring care to Liberia's remote communities

**W**hen Liberia was hit by the Ebola outbreak in 2014, one of the factors that contributed to the spread of the disease was limited access to healthcare in remote communities. Now Diana and a new class of community health assistants are travelling far and wide to bring healthcare to the people who need it most.

For as long as she can remember, Diana wanted to be a nurse. She pursued her dream in primary school in her village, all the way through to high school in Liberia's capital of Monrovia.

But when conflict broke out in 1990, she and thousands of others in her generation were forced to flee for their lives. After escaping to the eastern part of the country, she eventually ended up in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire. She missed four years of school in the process.

By the time Diana returned to Liberia in 1997, she was married and had three children. She never went back to school.

"Many days, I missed school and felt disappointed that I could not continue with my dream," she says. "I was also so sad seeing how many people suffered during the war... and others who died of preventable causes. It hurt my heart and I hoped I could do something to

help."

From dream to reality Diana finally realized her dream when, shortly after returning to Liberia, she began working as a community health volunteer for an international non-governmental organization.

The experience led her to where she is today: back in her native River Gee County, working as a community health assistant.

Diana is one of 750 health workers in Liberia's southeastern counties who were recruited and trained by the Ministry of Health and partners, with support from UNICEF. Hundreds more are still being recruited across the rest of the country.

Through their work, Diana and the other health assistants are extending health services to those who otherwise couldn't get the care they need. Twenty-nine per cent of Liberians live farther than 5 km from a health facility, and have little or no access to health care services. This means many families and children – 1.5 million



*A community health worker measures a child's mid-upper arm circumference to diagnose malnutrition in Liberia. Photo: Jallanzo UNICEF Liberia*

people in total – are unable to seek treatment, even for common illnesses.

Diana and her colleagues provide these much-needed services to Liberia's remote communities. Their services include treating malaria, diarrhoea or acute respiratory tract infections – some of the most common ailments for children under five. When campaigns take place, they help distribute mosquito nets and medicine to prevent river blindness. They also work with pregnant women and help monitor their progress, referring them to health facilities if there are any complications.

Preventing future outbreaks The initiative supports Liberia's health sector plan, which was



*A woman holds her child at the Bensonville Health Center in Bentol, Montserrado County, Liberia. Community health workers help reach families in remote counties who are otherwise unable to access health services. Photo: Jallanzo UNICEF Liberia*

revised after the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Liberia was one of the countries most affected by the outbreak, and limited access to health services was one of the factors that contributed to the spread of the disease. The revised plan calls for extension workers to bring services to communities living hours from health facilities, and to provide surveillance services to prevent future outbreaks and epidemics.

Diana sometimes walks for hours

or uses motorcycle taxis to reach communities living away from the main cities and towns of Liberia. But she knows her efforts are paying off. Since she started as a health assistant in her community, she has witnessed the behaviour changes that promote healthier communities. Parents are now more willing to take their children to the clinic or community health assistants whenever they suspect signs of illness. Communities are cleaner. Community members wash their hands more often

and use handpumps and wells for clean water, as opposed to drinking from creeks and unclean waterways.

Diana is also invested in the work because she herself lives in a remote community.

“Living 25 km from the nearest health facility, I know how hard it is to get proper care for me, my three children and family,” she says. “I am so happy that today, I am that person helping bring healthcare to my people and communities in far areas.”



*COP 2018-2019 high-level consultation meeting in Monrovia on 1 March 2018. Photo: Ana Biurrun Ruiz/UNHCR Liberia*

## UNHCR develops a new Country Operations Plan

Throughout February 2018, UNHCR Liberia has been working in the development and updating of the 2018-2019 Country Operations Plan in direct consultation with stakeholders during several meetings in Ganta (Nimba) and Monrovia (Montserrado). On 15-16 February 2018, UNHCR Liberia, the Government of Liberia (GoL), line ministries, refugees and partners met in Ganta to participate in the development of the 2018-2019 Country Operations Plan.

The former Superintendent of Grand Gedeh thanked UNHCR support to the Liberian government: “I will miss the level of cooperation and assistance received from UNMIL and UNHCR, who contributed highly to the return of refugees from Grand Gedeh to Côte d’Ivoire. Now it’s the time for refugees to lower their expectations in terms of local integration and focus on integrating; Liberians need to be accommodating to refugees”, Mr Peter Solo said.

On 21 February 2018, UNHCR, the GoL and partners met in Monrovia, along with UN Agencies such as UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNFPA and UNAIDS. Line ministries and partners

present were the Ministry of Education; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Gender; Liberian National Police; and the Liberian Red Cross.

UNHCR Liberia Representative, Madam Fatima Mohammed, presented UNHCR Liberia Strategic Directions for 2018 and 2019, and advocated for joint actions including other UN Agencies and the new Executive.

Participants got an insight into UNHCR local integration strategy for those refugees who wish to remain in Liberia and, following sectorial work groups, recommendations on next steps were shared covering pillars such as education; health and nutrition; Alternatives to Camp, including durable shelters and WASH; social cohesion; livelihoods and self-reliance; legal aspect of local integration; partnerships, coordination and advocacy. A joint consultation meeting took place on 1 March 2018 in Monrovia with the participation of several embassies and donors, and chaired by the Minister of Internal Affairs (MIA).

Participants to this session included: the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and Resident Coordinator in Liberia



COP 2018-2019 consultation meeting and group discussions in Ganta on 15-16 February 2018. Photo: Ana Biurrun Ruiz/UNHCR Liberia

(DSRSG); ECOWAS Special Representative in Liberia; Commissioner of the Liberian Immigration Service; Ambassadors of France and Sweden; First Secretary of the Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire; Political Officer from the US Embassy; Chairperson of the Council of Civil Societies in Liberia; Representatives from the Ministries of Finance & Development Planning, Justice, Gender, Education; representatives from African Development Bank and International Monetary Fund; and UN Agencies including UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, ILO, IOM and WFP.

UNHCR presented the local integration strategy in line with the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), the government priorities and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The DSRSG thanked the government and people of Liberia and declared that the country is ready to focus the peace consolidated viable through partnerships and the inclusion of Ivorians who might integrate and contribute to the national economy.

The MIA reaffirmed the government's commitment to work towards the integration of refugees in Liberia and pledged to work to ease the process of land acquisition and enable refugees to grow food in those areas. He also thanked UNHCR for advocating to amend the 1973 Alien and Nationality Law, of which the draft is being reviewed.

## Youth look to a cleaner, greener, prosperous future

percent women) were mobilized to clean their streets and pass on the message that change is afoot.

Abraham Sheriff is one of the young people chosen to lead the groups.

He says that the short-term project helped empower him to see the value of taking charge of his own future rather than waiting for others to do it for him.

“We as young people now want to take ownership of a project for this national clean-up campaign whether it is supported by donors or not,” he said.

Led by the Government, this rapid empowerment initiative has young people as agents of social change, helping their communities understand the importance of clean and green spaces.

The Youth Engagement for Improved Community Sanitation and Revitalization project saw 54 youth leaders trained in sanitation, safety and youth opportunities. They went back into their own



The project encourages young people to become active agents of the community by ensuring the cleanliness of their communities, engraining a sense of ownership of the environment. Photo: Sam Zota/UNDP

**Y**oung people are proving they have what it takes to make their communities healthy, beautiful and prosperous.

In a quick one-month community clean-up and sensitization project led by the Government of Liberia, and supported by UNDP and the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), 1,600 youth (50

communities to lead 54 teams comprising 1,620 young people to clean up the streets, and let other young people know what they can do to engage in their own well-being and growth, whether schooling or work.

Participants also earned some money, and according to Abraham Sheriff, this had a huge impact for one youth.

“One young person told me that he didn’t have money to pay his school fees. He used the money from the project to pay his school fees,” Sheriff said.

Liberia’s youth comprise 60 percent of the population of 4 million, and a large number of them are under- or un-employed. Theirs were powerful voices during the 2017 elections, and helped elect the new president, H.E. George Weah, who ran and won on the promise of meaningful and sustainable work for youth.

Eugene Herring, Policy Advisor in the Office of the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, says the Government has begun the groundwork on a more comprehensive youth empowerment program in line with its pro-poor agenda to address youth unemployment.

According to Herring, Liberia’s youth are stakeholders in the nation and are the engine development promotion and sustaining the peace. While President Weah is passionately committed to providing youth opportunities, he said, whether by employment, vocational training, or scholarship, young people need to rise to the challenge.

“We must begin to govern ourselves in a way that promotes the development that we wish to see,” Herring said.

During the launch of the project in late February, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Olayee S. Collins, described the project as one that is at the heart of the President, re-emphasizing President Weah’s commitment to youth empowerment.

“I urged you the young people of Liberia to learn and take advantage of the learning process, be a professional person and be part of the nation building process, go to school

and tell people you are professionals,” Collins said.

With support from UNMIL and UNDP, participants were given personal protective gears and tools to enable a safe and quick clean-up. Cleaning out the gutters and picking up the garbage that litters the streets and public areas not only looks good, it keeps the community healthy and green.

But it’s also the messages of opportunities that some of the participants are most excited about. Liberia’s youth are not only ready to leap at any job opportunities, they want to create the opportunities themselves.

“The leadership orientation lead by Ministry of Public Works and UNDP helped to sensitize us as young people on managing our expectations and exploring options outside of government support,” Sheriff said.

The project is comprised of a series of community sensitizations and simultaneous clean up campaigns being undertaken and spearheaded by youths with the strategic principle to help address and manage their expectations following the political transition.

It encourages young people to become active agents of the community by ensuring the cleanliness of their communities, engraining a sense of ownership of the environment.



Group photos from the closure of the youth cleanup exercise. Photo: Sam Zota/UNDP



Front view of a Maternal Waiting Home. Photo: Oliver Dennis/WHO

## Are maternal waiting homes the answer to reversing the high trend of maternal and newborn deaths in Liberia? – The story of Six counties

**M**ost maternal deaths are avertable with enhanced access to facilities and skilled care.

Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS) 2013 estimated 1,072/100,000 live births as the maternal mortality ratio and 26/1000 live births as newborn mortality rate. The survey further estimated institutional delivery at 56% and access to health care at 71 percent. This drives the urgent need for maternal waiting homes for promoting positive pregnancy outcomes for both the pregnant women and the newborns by bringing them closer to health care facilities. Six maternal waiting homes established in Grand Kru, Maryland, Rivergee, Rivercess, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu Counties in collaboration with the H6 SIDA Partnership; only

one maternal waiting home, fully furnished was established in each county rather than the requested three due to financial constraints.

The achievements to date demonstrate the effectiveness of the maternal waiting homes in reducing maternal deaths and disabilities. 504 lives were saved within nine months in 2017 across the six participating counties, hence maintaining and improving the health as well as the well-being of these mothers and their newborns. Lofa Bridge had the highest percentage contribution of MWH to delivery at 141.2% followed by Gboegeezay, Rivercess. Behwen, Grand Kru reported the least at 21.5% which is a reflection of the low admission numbers to the MWH in the county at the moment. Overall, there was a 79.6% contribution of MWHs to delivery. Through ad-

mission to the MWHs, the pregnant women were diagnosed and treated with different complications promptly and efficiently. This early detection and treatment of various complications significantly improved the survival rate of both the mothers and their babies. The project also strengthened the foundational role of community mobilization and engagement in establishing, promoting, utilizing, and sustaining MWHs effectively to improve pregnancy outcomes and well-being.

Therefore, Sustaining the H6 Partnership along with harnessing the opportunity of mobilizing resources through the donor community internally and externally will facilitate maintaining the current maternal waiting homes as well as provide avenues for scaling up responsive quality maternity care services.

## GoL, UN and partners take stock of youth engagement for violence free 2017 Presidential & General Elections of Liberia

On 22 January 2018, Senator George Manneh Weah was sworn in as President of the Republic of Liberia; replacing Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who had completed her two-term. The transition was the first between two democratically-elected presidents of Liberia since 1944.

With uncertainty and anxiety surrounding this transition which started in July 2017 with campaign activities by political parties and subsequent Representative and first round Presidential elections On 10 October, the United Nations and partners engaged youth in the prevention of any form of violence which was successful in significantly reducing the number of reported incidences of youth related conflict or violence during this election period.

Funding by the Peacebuilding Fund through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the Government of Liberia engaged partners including ActionAid Liberia to create awareness on the need for violence free elections, prevent, monitor and report election-related gender based

violence during the electoral period.

Under the project “Youth Participation in the 2017 Legislative and Presidential Elections”, a series of trainings and awareness campaigns on the prevention of gender based electoral violence and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and violence against women education (VAWE) were held across the country. The activities were implemented with the full engagement of various stakeholders including, female and male -led youth -focused organizations, youth at community, in schools and universities, young female police officers, NEC male and female staff (both temporary and permanent staff), community leaders and community radio journalists.

With a total of over 300,000 persons reached through trainings and sensitization programmes using electronic and print, social media engagement (Facebook and twitter) and a nationwide peace caravan in an attempt to reach the population in remote communities’ peace messages, one may say that on the overall, the project implementation was a huge success.

However, to take stock on lessons learnt and best practices in order to derive a way forward in sustaining the gains made during the implementation of this project, the concerned partners including GoL, UNFPA, UNDP ActionAid Liberia and other local partners organized a National Symposium from 25-28 March in Gbarnga, Bong County. The forum allowed for participants to share their experiences during the representatives and presidential elections and identify modalities for maintaining peace in Liberia. At the end of the three-day deliberations, the forum among other recommendations proposed a roundtable dialogue among the ruling political parties coalition (Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), National Patriotic Party (NPP) and Liberia People’s Democratic Party (LPDP) facilitated by the Federation of Liberia Youth (FLY), Liberia National Student Union (LINSU) and the Mano River Youth Parliament to diffuse possible tensions resulting from appointment expectations. The participants also stressed the need to increase accountability by the leadership of umbrella youth organizations on funding received and activities implemented.





*“Following the training, we were organized into a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) where I had three shares. I got LRD 9,000 from my savings in the VSLA and began my new business.”*

*Catherine is one of thousands of beneficiaries of the ‘Next Level’ Business Development Skills Training Programme. Her story of success is helping inspire her fellow market-women in Ma Juah Market in Monrovia. Photo: Winston Daryoue/UN Women*

## “My life has changed for the better”

**A** graduate of the UN Women supported ‘Next Level’ business development skills training funded by the Governments of Sweden and Norway, 45-year-old Catherine V. Sackie has improved her business which helps her cater to the needs of her family.

“Since 1998 when I started selling used clothes, I have done a lot of different businesses just to survive but none was good enough to take care of the needs of my family and me. I have sold curtains, beddings, and cooked food but I was not understanding what I was really doing. I was just investing my money and not getting anything back.”

“I also used to spend my business money a lot. I would buy things like fashion-slippers, movie discs, and clothes.”

“At some point I got discouraged and abandoned business.”

“In 2017, I participated in the ‘Next Level’ training programme by UN Women and it was during

the programme that I learned the basic skills and discipline needed to do business. We were taught how to manage our business, how to invest, accessing credit and saving our money.”

“Following the training, we were organized into a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) where I had three shares. I got LRD 9,000 from my savings in the VSLA and began my new business.”

“Due to my seriousness, I received a loan of USD 1,000 and purchased a tricycle or “Kekeh.” I paid back my loan and bought my second “Kekeh,” and I also registered a micro-finance business where I give other women loan at reduced interest rates.

Today, I have also established a shop where I sell used clothes, sneakers and slippers. The profit from all my businesses is helping to send my children to school and take care of my family. My life has changed for the better since I participated in the UN Women

training and graduated. I have purchased a plot of land where I am currently constructing a five-bed-room one story-building.”

“I know some women who are not respected by their husbands or communities because they do not have any skill to help contribute to the family wellbeing and their communities. I will like to see the training programme extended to more markets so that other women can gain similar skills and knowledge that have empowered me today.”

In addition to a shop she operates, Catherine also provides loans for other business women at reduced interest rates—an important approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 8 that promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Beneficiaries of Gleyee-Kwadoo women group in Bunadin, Nimba County working. Photo John Monibah/WFP

## WFP's community grain reserves strengthening capacities, warding off hunger for rural women in times of need

**T**he Human Security Trust Fund project is having incremental effects in increasing resilience and fostering food security for the Gleyee-Kwadoo" women group in Bunadin, Nimba County.

Through the human security initiative, the women-managed group has presented itself as a shining example when it comes to enhancing community food security and fostering social cohesion among a group of people with a history of conflict and shocks. The project is also helping strengthen economic empowerment, supporting sustained livelihoods, peacebuilding, and enhanced leadership management. Prior to the establishment of the Community Grain Reserves (CGR), the women of Bunadin and surrounding villages had no reliable sources of income. Then their main livelihood, agriculture, got terribly affected as a result of the 14 years of conflict and Ebola outbreak. Few years after Liberia's

civil war, rural women in Nimba County were constrained to host refugees from Côte d'Ivoire, a situation which compounded their living condition, nearly undermined peace and further threatened the food security mainly along the borders.

However, Madam Kou, chairperson of the Gleyee-Kwadoo" women's group, and few other women, decided to organize themselves into an association with the sole purpose of pulling collective efforts to overcome the economic hardships they were faced with. According to her, the Human Security Trust Fund intervention was timely and has made and continues to make significant impact on the lives of the women in the community and beyond. "Through the project a Community Grain Reserves (CGR) was established (consisting of storage facility equipped with processing machines & stocked with clean rice) in Bunadin, and this has been a huge help to the women, Bunadin community and other towns". They call their CGR "enabler" and it has helped

the women to increase their livelihoods activities especially in the area of rice production thereby making the community to become more food secure and further strengthens the community's capacity to better store and manage their food commodities. The establishment of the CGR has also created less labour and decreased post-harvest losses through the distribution of threshers, de-stoners and rice mill haulers. Besides the CGR, the women of Bunadin also acquired leadership and other skills for group management.

Besides the economic empowerment dividends of the project, the women have become more united and are better relating to other community dwellers, have gain greater admiration from husbands and are now being consulted in decision making.

Using income from their economic activities, Madam Kou and her group members have innovatively widened the scope of their activity to the include the raising of pigs, which according to them will generate needed protein and additional income for members and families. "Considering our commitment to sustaining the project concept and working assiduously to lift members from poverty, living and working together in harmony, we are obliged to make this effort sustainable, said Kou".

"We are out of words for WFP, the government and other partners for giving us the CGR. It has helped to the extent that we no longer have to worry about food shortages because all we have to do is to just walk to the CGR (food bank) and credit rice and pay after harvest. We no longer have to credit money just to buy rice for families", said Kou.

# The Liberia Moment: New Vision for Development in Liberia

## *A Pictorial*



Members of the high table



H.E. President George M. Weah at the Liberia Moment



Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed



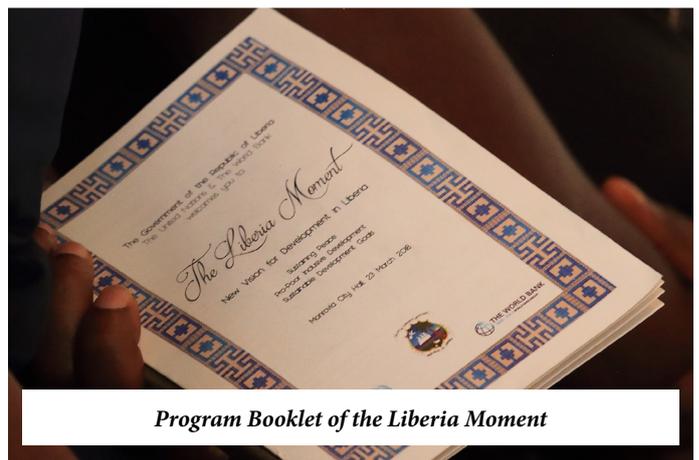
Gwendolyn Myers, Messengers of Peace



Cross-section of government officials and development partners



Cross-section of Development Partners



Program Booklet of the Liberia Moment

Photos: Lesley Wright UNDP

# Honouring ceremony for DSG Amina J. Mohammed, Amb. Olof Skoog, SRSR Farid Zarif and DSRSG Yacoub El Hillo by H.E. George M. Weah, President of Liberia



*H.E. President Weah delivers special remarks at the honoring ceremony*



*DSG Amina J. Mohammed speaking after being honored by H.E. President George M. Weah*



*H.E. Amb. Olof Skoog speaking after being honored by President George M. Weah*



*DSRSR/UN RC Yacoub El Hillo and DSRSG/Rule of Law Very*



*DSG Amina J. Mohammed after being gowned and honored*



*SRSR Farid Zarif after being gowned and honored*



*DSRSR/UN RC Yacoub El Hillo after being gowned and honored*

Photos: Lesley Wright UNDP

# Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed and Ambassador Olof Skoog meeting with Development Partners and UN Country Team



*Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed greets development partners*



*Meeting with Development Partners*



*R-L: UNDP Country Director Pa Lamin Beyai and WFP Country Rep. Bienvenue Djasso*



*Uchenna Emelonye, Country Representative, Office of the High Commission on Human Rights*



*R-L: SRSR Farid Zarif, Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed and DSRSG/UNRC Yacoub El Hillo*



*Group picture after meeting with development partners*

Photos: Lesley Wright UNDP



**UN FOCUS Liberia**

Produced by the UN Communications Group

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