



Notice Of Public Disclosure for the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP) Project (Phase-2) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and the Rural and Renewable Energy (RREA), through the Government of Liberia, have received funding from the World Bank to implement the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP)-Phase 2.

The proposed Project is aligned with the Liberia Country Partnership Framework (CPF) FY19-FY24 which highlights the need for enhanced access to affordable and reliable electricity through Liberia's renewable energy sources and improved regional energy trade. The CPF identifies the expansion of electricity services and its affordability for businesses, households, and public institutions as a necessary intervention to address constraints to economic growth, human capital development and poverty reduction. The proposed program is also consistent with the WBG's twin goals by increasing access to electricity and improving the quality of electricity services for economic activities, job creation, and improved living standards. The proposed program also directly supports human capital development through the provision of sustainable uninterrupted electricity services to health facilities.

The purposed project builds upon the achievements of the initial phase and aims to further enhance energy access, reliability, and sustainability through continued investment in the rehabilitation and expansion of electricity infrastructure and systems. The Project will also focus on electrifying health centers and households in off-grid rural areas, provides technical assistance to support institutional reform and capacity building within the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) that will helps to enhance operational efficiency and governance, explore sustainable generation solutions to mitigate energy shortages during critical situations. Similar to the MPA design, LESSAP Phase 2 will overlap with the previous phase to ensure continuity of support and momentum with the aims to strengthen Liberia's energy sector, promote sustainable development, and improve the lives of its citizens through increased access to electricity.

The proposed second phase will be implemented by the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and the Rural Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) as an IPF, in line with the Program PrDO of the MPA in all fifteen (15) counties of Liberia, and the proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase access to electricity in Liberia and improve the operational efficiency of LEC. This PDO will be achieved through the following three Project components:

- 1. Grid Expansion and Densification:**

- LESSAP Phase 2 will scale up the grid component to support new areas for grid expansion. This involves extending the electricity network to reach additional households and businesses.

- 2. Off-Grid Solar Electricity Services:**

- The project will support the provision of off-grid solar electricity services to households. This initiative aims to bring clean and reliable energy to rural and remote areas that are not connected to the main grid.
- 3. Continued Technical Assistance:**
- LESSAP Phase 2 will continue providing technical assistance to sector institutions. This includes capacity building, institutional reform, and support for efficient operations within the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

In accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) requirements, including the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), the implementing agencies (LEC and RREA) developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and an Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS). These appraisal stage environmental and social (E&S) documents provide procedures for stakeholder engagement including establishing mechanisms for disclosing project information to affected communities, stakeholders, and the public. The sole purpose of this notice is to disclose the SEP, ESCP and ESRS to the public, including interested and affected parties. All persons having views, comments or concerns regarding the proposed project are encouraged to forward their queries or comments to the focal persons:

1. LEC

Patience Awhavbera-Lumei
Environmental Specialist
Email: patawha1111@gmail.com
Contact Number: +231-888-40-3732, +231-555-12-8075

2. RREA

Mr. Abraham Bility
Social Development Specialist of the RREA
Email: abrahamb@rreliberia.org
Phone #: +231770392308/86621340

The E&S appraisal documents can be accessed at the following locations:

RREA:

Rural and Renewable Energy
Agency (RREA),
Old LEC Sub-Station, Newport
Street,
Adjacent Newport High School
Monrovia, Liberia
Websites: www.rrealiberia.org
Email: info@rrealiberia.org
Phone number: +231886527484/
+231775894039

LEC:

Liberia Electricity Corporation
(LEC)
Bushrod Island
Monrovia, Liberia
Website: <https://lecliberia.com>
Email: info@lecliberia.com
Phone number: +231770479709

World Bank:

World Bank's Website:
www.worldbank.org

The documents will also be published in major local dailies including the Executive Mansion's
Websites: www.emansion.gov.lr



**LIBERIA ELECTRICITY CORPORATION
AND
RURAL AND RRENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY**

**Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project – Phase 2
(LESSAP-2)**

P180498

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

29 May 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Liberia (the Borrower) will implement the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following ministries/agencies/units: The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), working through the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA), the implementing agencies in consultation with other relevant line ministries and agencies. The International Development Association (the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Borrower will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The GoL will also comply with the provisions of any other Environmental and Social (E&S) documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Borrower is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, agency or unit referenced above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Borrower as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Bank and the Borrower, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the Borrower will agree to the changes with the Bank and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Borrower. The Borrower will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance results in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Borrower shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	MONITORING: The work of the consultant shall be supervised by the Project Implementation Unit's (PIU) Environmental and Social Management Unit (ESMU). The PIU shall be responsible for monitoring the performance of Contractor(s) in relation to contracted workers. Impact and compliance monitoring shall be conducted during the construction and operation phases of the proposed project. Monitoring shall be conducted to verify the predicted impacts, examine the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures, respond to unanticipated environmental impacts, and improve environmental controls. Monitoring shall be conducted by trained individuals following monitoring and recordkeeping procedures and using properly calibrated and maintained equipment. Civil works supervision engineers shall monitor compliance to the Contractor Environment and Social Management Plan (CESMP) by the civil work contractors during their regular site supervision. During implementation of the project components, the contractor shall be supervised by the ESMU with the support of the Environmental Consultant, when required. The contractor shall ensure that it is correctly implementing the CESMP and is meeting all conditions of the Environmental Permit(s) issued by the EPA for the project component activities.	Throughout project implementation Every quarter	LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
Use an ESMP checklist shall be used to monitor construction activities to ensure compliance. The PIU shall submit to the Bank an environmental and social compliance monitoring report for review and clearance.	Every quarter	
Monitoring data shall be analyzed and reviewed at regular intervals and compared with operating standards so that any necessary corrective actions can be taken. Monitoring activities shall be undertaken during general construction and/or rehabilitation activities and include: Environmental - Air quality; noise levels; waste disposal; end of life batteries and others; water quality; soil disturbances; tree clearing / trimming; traffic disturbance; and occupational health and safety. Social – Job created by the project; and cultural sites. In addition to the quarterly E&S compliance monitor reporting, the ESMP provisions for reporting implementation progress shall be monitored and reported in the project's semi-annual progress reports and periodic reports. The overall safeguards implementation process shall be supervised and monitored, and progress reports on the application of safeguards during the planning, design, and construction phases of the Project shall be prepared.	Biannually	
B REGULAR REPORTING: The Borrower shall develop the reporting requirements and procedures to ensure compliance of the contractor(s).	Within one month of notice to proceed	LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	The Borrower shall prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including, but not limited to, stakeholder engagement activities and review of GRM records. The regular reporting will also cover progress on the implementation of the ESCP	Quarterly throughout the project implementation period	LEC and RREA
C	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: The Project will promptly notify the Bank of any incident or accident related to, or having an impact on, the Project, which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers. This will include workplace accidents, incidence of SEA/SH, Protection of Woman and Child Adolescent Health and well-being, maternal mortality and the notification of teenage pregnancy, labor related, work & vehicle related. This report will be submitted to the World Bank and the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Subsequently, if requested by the Bank, the Borrower shall prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.	Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. A subsequent detailed report would be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank.	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s) LEC and RREA
D	CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS: Contractors' monitoring reports to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) shall cover ESHS aspects. monthly civil/electrical work progress reports.	Monthly throughout the project implementation period	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	The status of ESMP implementation shall be incorporated regularly in the PIU's monthly report. Per the LMP, a regular employment report (e.g., Names of staff, category, ages, gender, hours work and wages paid), incident report including grievances shall be submitted by contractors on a monthly basis or at shorter intervals as defined by specific ESMPs.	Monthly throughout the project implementation period Monthly or more frequently as defined in ESMPs.	LEC and RREA Contractor(s)
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The LEC and RREA will utilize their existing PIUs and E&S specialists for the grid and off-grid components respectively for LESSAP-2 (Note: LEC currently has 7 E&S specialists in the LEC PIU that serve all WB funded projects. An 8th specialist (social/gender) is currently being recruited; RREA has 5 E&S specialists)¹. These E&S specialists have gained some experience working on the ongoing Bank financed projects, including LESSAP-1. LEC has additional senior social safeguard / safety specialists to oversee the rehabilitation / installation works in electrified communities.	Throughout Project implementation	LEC and RREA

¹ Responsibilities of an OHS Specialist are shared within the PIU, specifically by the Environmental and Social Safeguard Unit. The current environmental specialist has obtained a NEBOSH certificate in OHS and participated in several OHS and ESRM training facilitated by the World bank. Hence, has acquired the relevant skills and competency to undertake OHS duties on LESSAP. The environmental specialist at LEC also conducts incident investigation and reporting, health and safety induction for workers, reviewing contractors' risk management plans, Workers' GRM etc.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS: An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) , and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), were prepared under LESSAP-1. The ESMF sets out the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures that LEC and RREA will follow when assessing the environmental and social risks and impacts of subprojects' activities. The RPF has set out the principle, policies, rules, guidelines and procedures to prepare Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plans (ARAP) / Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) should land acquisition, restriction on land use and/or involuntary resettlement is required by the Project. The Borrower shall update, disclose and adopt the ESMF, LMP, and RPF prepared under Phase I for Phase II by effectiveness, which will then guide the preparation of subsequent E&S screening and ESMPs according to ESF, GIIP, and WB EHS Guidelines. The Borrower is required to update and adopt the SEP prepared under Phase I. The existing ESCP for Phase I will be updated for Phase II to address the environmental and social obligations of the borrower as by the relevant ESSs and national regulations. The SEP shall be implemented and updated incorporating stakeholders' comments, observation and action taken as agreed during engagements and consultation meetings	By Project effectiveness Updated and disclosed by the Borrower on May 23, 2024 and by the Bank on May 24, 2024. Throughout project implementation	LEC and RREA LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Screening of subproject components including Mini grid sites to identify the nature and magnitude of the site, and to determine the category to which such site belongs (1 & 2) shall be required for the approval of the subproject component/mini-grid site for private sector participation.	Prior to the approval of subproject component/mini-grid sites	LEC and RREA
	PIU Procurement Department in collaboration with PIU E&S team shall select and hire a consultant from a list of EPA certified Environmental Evaluators to conduct relevant environmental and social impact studies from an independent impact assessment viewpoint, when required.	Prior to civil/electrical installations works	LEC and RREA
	An environmental audit shall be conducted in cases where an existing site is being rehabilitated and in cases where PCBs are involved.	Throughout Project implementation if and when required	LEC and RREA
	Environmental permits identified in the ESMF shall be obtained for construction works.	Prior to civil/electrical installations works	LEC and RREA
1.3	MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS: The ESMF, LMP, SEP and RPF have been prepared thereby satisfying the requirements of the Environmental Protection Management Law (EPML) of Liberia. The requirement for ARAPs/RAPs has not been identified for LESSAP-2. ARAPs/RAPs will be prepared in the event that land acquisition, restriction of land use or involuntary resettlement is identified for LESSAP-2. However, the SEP prepared for LESSAP Phase I, shall be updated disclosed and adopted for Phase II by appraisal. While the ESMF, LMP and RPF shall be updated, disclosed and adopted by	Prepared by borrower and, cleared by the Bank, and disclosed. The instruments shall be fully implemented prior to moving to the site for site clearance for starting civil works. By appraisal	LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	effectiveness. Preparation of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Plan and E-waste management plan as stand-alone documents or part of the ESMP both for construction and operation; o ESMP and LMP provisions to be included in the Bidding documents and contracts.	By Project effectiveness By Project effectiveness Prior to the launching of bidding process for sub-project components	
1.4	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS: The Borrower shall incorporate the relevant E&S aspects identified in the ESMF and the LMP into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents for civil works. Measures related to hazardous waste and OHS management shall be identified in the procurement documents. Thereafter contractors shall comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.	Prior to the preparation of procurement documents Throughout Project implementation.	LEC and RREA LEC and RREA
1.5	PERMIT, CONSENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS: The Borrower shall seek and obtain the necessary approvals, permits and authorizations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other relevant national authorities as applicable. The Project shall comply or cause to comply, as appropriate, with the conditions established by these permits, consents and authorizations throughout Project implementation.	Prior to initiating activities that require permits, consents and authorizations	LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1.6	EXCLUSIONS: The following type of activities are ineligible for financing under the Project: • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible adverse impacts; • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts; • Activities that harm the rights of vulnerable people; • Activities that may have adverse impacts on cultural heritage; and • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.	During the ESMF process	LEC and RREA
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES (LMP): The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, including through, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures), setting out grievance arrangements for workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms specifically on labor management, worker accommodations, grievance procedures and provision to avoid any SEA/SH incidences. The LMP has been prepared and shall be updated, disclosed, adopted, and implemented consistent with ESS 2. The LMP shall be updated and incorporated into the [ESMP].	Throughout Project implementation By Project effectiveness	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s) LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
Contracts with selected contractors shall include provisions related to labor and occupational health and safety, as provided in the World Bank 2018 Standard Procurement Documents. Overall project coordination, including implementation of the LMP, shall remain the responsibility of LEC and RREA. Both PCMU/PIUs shall have an Environmental and Social Management Unit (ESMU) in charge of overseeing the implementation of the LMP and other Safeguards related subjects, with E&S specialists tasked with coordinating all activities under the LMP at the PCMU/PIUs level. All workers/staff working on the project will sign a Workers Code of Conduct demonstrating the workers acceptance of the contractor's guidelines and Bank ESS2 requirements for ethical behavior in the workplace.	Prior to civil/electrical installations works Throughout Project implementation Throughout Project implementation Within one month of Project effectiveness	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s) LEC and RREA LEC and RREA LEC and RREA
For project activities involving renovation/refurbishment and minor civil works, the contractor(s) shall oversee labor and safety performance on a regular basis (daily) on behalf of the Employer. The PIU safeguard team shall closely supervise the Contractor Recruitment Plan and ensure recruitment procedures are transparent, public and non-discriminatory, and open with respect to ethnicity, religion, sexuality, disability or gender. Specific measures to be implemented by the contractor(s) and monitored by the PCMU/PIU safeguard team shall include: Provide all information and documentation at the beginning of the working relationship and when any material changes to the terms or conditions of employment occur.	Daily Throughout Project implementation Throughout Project implementation	Contractor(s) LEC and RREA Contractor(s), LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
• Where applicable, provide project workers with written notice of termination of employment and details of severance payments in a timely manner. • Pay project workers on a regular basis as required by national law and labor management with a principle of “equal pay for equal work”. • Provide all project workers with adequate periods of rest per week, annual holiday and sick leave, as required by national law. • Base employment of project workers on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment, with no discrimination with respect to any aspects of the employment relationship, such as recruitment and hiring, compensation (including wages and benefits), working conditions and terms of employment, access to training, job assignment, promotion, termination of employment or retirement, or disciplinary practices. • Safeguard the interests of women and girls, including gender parity at the workspace, provision of appropriate sanitation facilities at workplace and appropriate PPEs for women. • Encourage minimizing risks related to labor influx by utilizing community labor or local contractors wherever possible.		
2.2 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS: The Project shall develop and operate a separate grievance redress mechanism [GRM], as described in the Labor Management Plan (LMP) and consistent with ESS2, for project workers’ contracts, with specific GRM for contractor staff in line with the LMP, SEP and ESMF to address worker grievances and shall be maintained and operated throughout project implementation.	Established prior to commencement of construction activities. , Maintained and operated throughout project implementation.	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	The Contractor shall inform workers, and sub-contractor(s), and display publicly at each work-site the information about the existing project GRM. A GRM committee responsible for investigating and resolving labor related complaints shall be set up at the LEC/RREA. The committee shall comprise five (5) persons and the meeting of any three (3) persons shall constitute a quorum. The GRM committee shall be headed by the PIU/PCMU coordinator and the secretary to the committee shall be the social safeguard staff recruited at the PIU/PCMU.	Prior to commencement of subproject work activities Prior to commencement of subproject work activities Prior to commencement of subproject work activities	Contractor(s) LEC and RREA, Contractor(s) LEC and RREA, Contractor(s)
2.3	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES: Contractor(s), in accordance with contract specific Labor Management Plans, shall have primary responsibility for workplace health and safety, and shall be required to respect guidelines provided in the LMP, implementation of which will be supervised by Safeguards Specialists at LEC and RREA. Contractor(s) shall be required to hire a qualified and experienced OHS Specialist and prepare detailed OHS plan for the management of labor/OHS issues. Contractor(s) shall develop a TOR for recruiting an OHS Specialist, subject to review and approval by the safeguard team of LEC/RREA.	Throughout project implementation Prior to commencement of subproject work activities Prior to commencement of subproject work activities	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s) Contractor(s) Contractor(s), LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
Contractor(s) shall prepare and implement their respective site specific OHS plans, as necessary. The OHS measures shall be followed throughout project implementation. They shall address: (a) identification of potential hazards to project workers, particularly those that may be life-threatening; (b) provision of preventive and protective measures, including modification, substitution, or elimination of hazardous conditions or substances, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE); (c) training of project workers and maintenance of training records; (d) documentation and reporting of occupational accidents, diseases and incidents; (e) emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements; and (f) remedies for adverse impacts such as occupational injuries, deaths, disability and disease.	At the deployment of workers on the project site and prior to commencement of civil work and implemented throughout the project life	Contractor(s), LEC and RREA
The project contractor shall conduct occupational health and safety awareness for workers in the following areas: • Occupational health and safety; • Emergency preparedness and response; • Community health and safety; • E&S risk management; • Labor management procedures; and • Gender-based violence and SEA/SH The Project shall ensure that contractors, subcontractors and their workers are trained and are aware of risks and avoid and mitigate impacts on local communities. LEC/RREA shall develop a training manual indicating staff and the training schedule to address risks related, but not necessarily limited, to: • Slips and falls • Falls from height	At the deployment of workers on the project site and prior to commencement of civil work and implemented throughout the project life At the deployment of workers on the project site and prior to commencement of civil work and implemented throughout the project life	Contractor(s), LEC and RREA LEC and RREA, Contractor(s)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	• Contact with moving parts of machines and tools • Contact with electrical tools and wires (electrocution) • Inadequate wiring and overloaded circuits • Exposure to hazardous substances • Overexertion • Moving vehicles and equipment and falling objects • Exposure to high level of noise • Heat exhaustion • Exposure to dust and damaged insulation • Exposures to metal fumes and to ultraviolet (UV) radiation • Exposure to hand-arm vibration (HAV) or whole-body vibration (WBV) • GBV and SEA/SH		
	Measures adopted by the Project for addressing occupational health and safety issues shall apply to civil servants assigned to serve in the PCMU/PIU of the Project.	At the deployment of workers on the project site and prior to commencement of civil work and implemented throughout the project life	LEC and RREA
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
3.1 WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Handling and disposal of hazardous waste (lithium batteries, solar panels and transformer oils) and e-wastes (meters) are potential ESHS risks associated with LESSAP-2. A waste management plan shall be developed, consistent with ESS3, within the CESMP for review and approval by the ESMU/PIU. It will cover solid wastes, liquid wastes, gaseous wastes and hazardous wastes, including safe handling and disposal of hazardous wastes such as lithium batteries and solar panels and e-wastes that will be generated under the project. There are limitations with the disposal of hazardous waste in Liberia as no hazardous waste disposal site is available. The Liberian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a list of waste service providers responsible for disposal of hazardous waste through the process of recycling. For disposal purposes, the waste service providers shall be contracted. The manufacturers of the solar panels and batteries shall be contacted for repair or replacement, where possible. The manufacturers shall be contracted to conduct basic operation and maintenance training for the safeguard team of LEC and RREA, EPA and MOH technicians.	To be included in the ESMP to be prepared prior to commencement of construction works and implemented throughout project implementation. To be included in the ESMP to be prepared prior to commencement of construction works implemented throughout project implementation.	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s) LEC and RREA, Contractor(s)
Furthermore, the environmental safeguard team shall conduct routine monitoring during construction and operation phases to ensure safe handling and disposal of hazardous end e-waste.	Throughout project implementation	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s)
3.2 RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT: Most of the wastes from the project activities will be generated during the civil works. They will be mainly construction related wastes that can be easily handled and managed.		LEC and RREA, Contractor(s)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
The ESMP prepared for the project shall be implemented and a Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan (CESMP) outlining specific mitigation measures for effective management/monitoring of E&S risks associated with LESSAP, including procedures for disposal of construction waste materials, shall be prepared and implemented. All agreed measures described in the CESMP shall be included as appropriate. A separate budget line for smooth implementation of the ESMP shall be prepared. The ESMP shall be shared and communicated with subcontractor(s) to ensure the ESMP is implemented during project construction works. The ESMP shall include sub-plans as follows: • Air quality • Noise • Waste management • PCB waste • Hazardous waste • Damage to private property • Surface water • Soil and groundwater • Flora and fauna; erosion	To be included in the ESMP to be prepared prior to commencement of construction works and implemented throughout project implementation. To be included in the ESMP to be prepared prior to the commencement of construction works and implemented throughout project implementation.	LEC and RREA, Contractor(s)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	• Land clearing • Dust and noise during construction • Traffic • Worker health and safety • Community health and safety • Protecting workers and local communities from COVID-19 • Gender and socio-economic • Physical cultural resources (Chance Find Procedure)		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY: The project contractor shall develop and implement an Occupational Health and Safety Management Plan as well as Traffic and Road Safety Management Plan to mitigate adverse project impacts on beneficiary communities as well as safeguard project affected communities from traffic and road safety risks, diseases and hazardous materials associated with project implementation and operation. The contractor's environment, health and safety plan shall include a traffic management plan as required by the ESMP. The contractor shall coordinate with National traffic authorities (e.g., the Liberia National Police) to guide the implementation of the traffic management plan.	To be finalized and approved prior to commencement of civil works.	Contractor(s)
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:	Maintain throughout Project implementation.	Contractor(s)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	The contractor shall develop and implement measures and actions to assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from project activities, including in relation to project workers and any risks of labor influx. Particular focus shall be on the workers' work place behavior with prohibition on disturbance to the local community. Implement key safety and health protocols for stakeholder engagement.		LEC and RREA
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS: A GBV risk assessment shall be conducted and measures and actions developed and implemented to manage the risks of SEA/SH that may arise during project implementation.	Update GBV action plan of Phase I and adopt for Phase II one month after Project effectiveness, and implement throughout project duration	LEC and RREA
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK: Minimum land acquisition was expected under LESSAP-1, but because exact project component locations was not known at that time, a draft Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) was prepared for the Project, consistent with ESS5, to guide assessment of the impact of planned project activities on assets and livelihoods.	Update the RPF for Phase I and disclose prior to Project effectiveness and implement throughout the project life.	LEC and RREA/GOL

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
5.2	RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLANS: In the event of any need of land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement under LESSAP-2, site specific Resettlement Action Plans will be prepared, and implemented, and a compensation and resettlement assistance completion report shall be prepared and submitted to the Bank to obtain NOC prior to start of the work. In the event of involuntary resettlement becoming necessary, compliance with ESS5 and the laws of Liberia and regulations of relevant agencies and institutions will be necessary to mitigate any adverse impacts. In such cases, a compensation and resettlement completion report shall be prepared for each subproject.	Prior to site handover to the contractor(s) and the commencement of any activities in project area(s) that requires the land Prior to site handover to the contractor Two weeks after compensation payment completion and three months prior to site handover to the contractor for each site	LEC and RREA/GOL LEC and RREA/GOL LEC and RREA/GOL LEC and RREA/GOL
	Site(s) shall be handed over to the contractor.	Three months after completion of compensation payments in the entire subcomponent impact corridor	LEC and RREA/GOL
5.3	GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM: In the event that any resettlement actions are required, the grievance redress mechanism (GRM) developed to address resettlement related complaints shall be described in RPF, RAP and SEP documents prepared for LESSAP-2.	Include when documents are drafted and established after baseline survey conducted	LEC and RREA/GOL
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS: ESS 6 is not considered relevant to the project at this time as none of the project components will occur in natural habitats or in areas with biodiversity. The project components will be developed within urban areas or small towns. Maintain correct spacing between energized components, and evaluate the need for bird deterrents or diverters, insulated jumper loops, and elevated perches to protect avian fauna to mitigate the risk of bird collisions, especially for large terrestrial birds that will be at increased risk of collision with the earth wire. Ensure adequate selection of the location of the district offices or routes for the distribution lines to reduce impacts on biodiversity.	During MV&D construction During MV&D construction	Contractor(s) Contractor(s)
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL			
7.1	This standard is not considered relevant for LESSAP-2. The preliminary assessment suggests that there are no distinct social and cultural groups in the project area who exhibit characteristics akin to the criteria for indigenous or traditionally under-served communities as defined in the ESS7.	<i>Not Applicable</i>	
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	This standard is considered relevant even though the project activities may not have an impact on tangible and intangible cultural heritage. In the unlikely event of construction or the movement of earth in connection with	Throughout project implementation.	LEC and RREA, Contractors

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	any project activities that have not yet been anticipated, a chance find procedure has been prepared and integrated into the ESMF and will be implemented for the Project.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant to LESSAP-2		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION: A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was prepared for LESSAP-1, and has been updated for LESSAP-2. It shall be consulted upon, disclosed, and implemented consistent with ESS10 including measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.	Updated SEP to be consulted upon and disclosed prior to Appraisal.	LEC and RREA
	Key activities shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: • Updating and consultation and disclosure of the existing Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) – Before Appraisal; • Updating and consultation and disclosure of an existing Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including draft grievance redress mechanism (GRM) - Before Appraisal;		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
• Updating and, consultation and disclosure of existing Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Labor Management Procedures (LMP) by effectiveness. • Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP): • Institutional arrangements for the management of ESS standards; • Finalize the update of RPF, LMP, and SEP in a timely manner; • Updated Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for construction and operation phases for Components 1, and 2 • Implementation and supervision of SEA/SH Action Plan; • Development and implementation of institutional environmental and social capacity strengthening plan; • Preparation of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Plan and E-waste management plan as stand-alone documents or part of the ESMP both for construction and operation; • ESMP and LMP provisions to be included in the Bidding documents and contracts. • Conduct public consultation and public awareness programs. • Publish a “notice of intent” that states the information that may be necessary to allow the stakeholders or any interested party to identify their interest in the proposed project or activity following submission of any application for an environmental impact assessment permit. Information to include: the nature of the		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
project, its related activities, its timeframe and its site of operation and the area that may be impacted.		
• Ensure meaningful consultations with various stakeholders (including project affected communities, women and youth groups, NGOs, line ministries, community-based groups and other vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the communities) throughout the project life cycle. • Provide stakeholders with accessible and inclusive GRM to raise issues and grievances, that will allow LEC to receive, respond to, facilitate resolution of concerns and manage grievances. • Ensure that all stakeholder consultations are accessible and inclusive (in format and location), and that these consultations will be appropriate for the local context. • Provide stakeholders with timely, relevant and understandable information in a culturally appropriate format. • Undertake consultations with the following stakeholder groups: Government and regulatory relations; Non-governmental organizations; Local stakeholders; and Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.	By Appraisal	LEC and RREA / WB LEC and RREA LEC and RREA LEC and RREA LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
Publicly disclose any ESIA prepared in accordance with EPA and World Bank requirements.		LEC and RREA
- Disclose all safeguards documents in public locations within Liberia. Make simplified summaries available. Documents to be made available in English in compliance with the World Bank's Public Consultation and Disclosure Policy. - Use a variety of communication methods to reach the majority of stakeholders.		LEC and RREA LEC and RREA
10.2 PROJECT GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM (GRM): A grievance redress mechanism (GRM) has been developed for LESSAP Phase I, that is designed to resolve complaints and grievances in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, and builds upon, strengthens and upgrades the existing GRMs already established and being managed by LEC and RREA for ongoing World Bank financed projects LACEEP and AF (P133445), and LIRENAP(P149683), in a manner consistent with ESS10. Key activities shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: Handle grievances at the local community and project level (PCMU/PIU) by Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) comprised of representatives of project affected and interested persons including local community leaders established through PCMU/PIUs at LEC/RREA, including via a dedicated hotline which will be established.	GRM in place and functioning prior to project implementation and thereafter maintained and operated throughout Project implementation.	LEC and RREA LEC and RREA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Where grievances cannot be resolved at the local level, provide the aggrieved person with the option to refer the matter to the PCMU/PIU at LEC and RREA for redress.		LEC and RREA
	- If the complainant is still dissatisfied with decision reached at the PCMU/PIU, he/she may have an option to seek judicial remedy. - Contractor(s) shall be required to identify focal points and communication channels (for example, WhatsApp, SMS and email) within the company to address workers' concerns on an ongoing basis, and ensure that such channels are adequately resourced (for example, 24-hour staffing of the emergency response call line). - The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.		LEC and RREA Contractor(s) LEC and RREA
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	LEC and RREA shall develop a training manual identifying staff and the training schedule for E&S staff of LEC and RREA as they are relatively new to ESF/ESSs notwithstanding exposure to ESF/ESSs in LESSAP-1.	Prepare a training manual within 30 days of Project effectiveness of LESSAP-2	LEC and RREA
CS2	Staff involved in E&S will regularly attend training to discuss and address emerging issues and challenges in E&S implementation.	Ongoing throughout life of project	LEC and RREA



**LIBERIA ELECTRICITY CORPORATION (LEC)
AND**

RURAL AND RRENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (RREA)

**Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
(LESSAP)-Phase 2**

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)

01 April 2024

Final

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CSC	Customer Service Centre
CLSG	Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana (Transmission Line)
EHS/HS	Environment, Health and Safety / Health and Safety
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (Liberia)
EPML	Environmental Protection and Management Law
E&S	Environmental and Social
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework (World Bank)
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMU	Environmental and Social Management Unit
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard (World Bank)
EU	European Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoL	Government of Liberia
GRM	Grievance Redress Management
HSMS	Health and Safety Management System
LEC	Liberia Electricity Corporation
LERC	Liberia Energy Regulatory Commission
LESSAP	Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
LIBTELCO	Liberia Telecommunications Corporation
LLA	Liberia Land Authority
LMP	Labor Management Procedures

LV	low voltage
LWSC	Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoL	Ministry of Labour
MPW	Ministry of Public Works
MV	medium voltage
NES	National Export Strategy (Liberia)
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OGS	Off-grid Solar
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PAI	Project Area of Influence
PCMU	Project Coordinating and Management Unit
PCN	Project Concept Note (World Bank)
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMT	Project Management Team
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RFP	Resettlement Policy Framework
RREA	Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (Liberia)
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SHS	Solar Home Systems
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
GIZ	Energizing Development (EnDev)
MoE	Ministry of Education (MoE)
LEAP Network	Liberia Energy Access Practitioner Network
GoL	Government of Liberia
NEA	National Electrification Analysis

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective of the SEP

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) provides a framework for stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the project cycle (identification, preparation, appraisal, negotiation, completion). The SEP has been designed so that the project can demonstrate engagement that is effective, meaningful, consistent, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally appropriate in line with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), Environmental and Social Standard ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure objectives and requirements, the relevant Liberian legal and regulatory framework, and good international industrial practice.

1.2 Project Components

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project Phase 2 (LESSAP-2 or "the Project") is to **expand the access to electricity services, and enhance the operational performance of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)**, building upon the work carried out under LESSAP-1 to increase access to electricity and improve operational efficiency of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

Continuing from LESSAP-1, the proposed LESSAP-2 will continue to contribute to the Government of Liberia (GoL) target of increasing electricity access to 70 percent of the country by 2030 from the current rate of 28 percent and turn around the operational and financial performance of the national utility. The Project will target two key areas in Liberia's energy sector, grid electrification mainly in the Capital Monrovia and economic corridors of Kakata and Bomi counties implemented by LEC, and off-grid solar electrification in health centers and remote communities to be spearheaded by Liberia's Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA).

The grid component to be implemented by LEC will: (a) increase grid electricity access by rehabilitating and expanding medium voltage (MV) and low voltage (LV) distribution network and connect new households and business; (b) reduce commercial losses by replacing all faulty meters and regularizing all unmetered or illegally connected households and businesses as well as implementing revenue protection measures; (c) decentralize the operations (technical and commercial) into districts to bring delivery of quality electricity services closer to consumers and help LEC to better manage commercial losses; (d) automate the technical operations to improve reliability of supply and better integration with Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinée (CLSG) interconnection; and (e) ensure a smooth transition to full-time sustainable management and strengthen the managerial and staff capacity of LEC to ensure its operational and financial sustainability.

Some components / subcomponents of LESSAP-1, including solar home systems (SHS), health and educational facilities electrification under the off-grid component (2), household / residential metering, and additional software installation at LEC, will be carried over and scaled up under LESSAP-2. The off-grid component will extend solar photo voltaic (PV) electricity services

primarily to remotely located health facilities. Guided by Liberia's National Export Strategy (NES), the component will also support a design and implementation of a pilot for a more concessional approach to deploy solar home systems (SHS) to households in very remote and dispersed communities, and support single-community smaller mini-grids in areas where it is feasible. The proposed LESSAP-2 is comprised of the following components and subcomponents:

Component 1 Rehabilitation and Expansion of Electricity Infrastructure and Systems and Enhancement of LEC Revenue Protection (IDA US\$ 14 million): This component initially involved four subcomponents as part of LESSAP-1. As noted below, subcomponent (1 (c) Establishment of District Offices and Customer Service Centers (CSC)) was dropped from LESSAP-1 (see Annex B). The remaining two sub-components include the following:

Subcomponent 1a: Rehabilitation and expansion of the distribution network (IDA US\$ 4 million): The subcomponent will complete the installation of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System initiated under the first phase to ensure oversight, proactive network problem detection and resolution, adequate network reliability, obtain required power quality data for real time operational decision. The subcomponent will also continue the densification and expansion of distribution network. Since the number of communities identified under the first phase was reduced due to the reallocation of funds during the March 2023 restructuring, the proposed subcomponent would intensify the network to include all households in the beneficiary communities and extend supply to the new communities along the corridor.

Subcomponent 1.b: Revenue Protection Program (IDA US\$10 million): The subcomponent will enhance the installation of an advanced-metering infrastructure (AMI) platform under the first phase to include the connection and monitoring of large commercial customers via Meter Data Management (MDM) and ensure accurate measurement of their consumption and prevent tampering with metering systems. It will also fund the procurement of 50,000 prepayment meters for households that will support the replacement of damaged meters, new connection and regularization of illegal connections. In addition, the subcomponent will support enhancements to the LEC Integrated Management System through the addition of a Geographic Information System (GIS), a Field Service Management System (FSMS), and a mobile add-on to the Enterprise Asset Management module and the implementation of the Asset and Customers Mapping Survey (ACMS) for LEC to have accurate information on the point of sale of electricity due to the outdated and inaccurate customer database. The enhancements to the IMS will enable LEC to work with geographical network data and maintain that data as the network grows, control the dispatch and execution of field orders for meter installation, trouble call resolution, network operations and maintenance, and network design and construction activities. The ACMS and the enhanced IMS will also enable LEC to effectively manage client arrears and non-technical losses and improve operational efficiency.

Component 2: Off-grid Electrification of Households, Public Facilities, and Stimulation of Productive Uses in Rural Areas (IDA US\$ 13 million; ESMAP grant US\$ 3 million). This component will scale up the activities under the first phase off-grid electrification component

with a focus on mobilizing private capital. Due to the groundwork laid out in phase one, the second phase would focus on accelerating the off-grid activities and devise methods of sustainability through private sector participation.

Subcomponent 2.a: Electrification of public facilities in rural areas (IDA US\$ 6 million):

a. Subcomponent 2.a (i): Electrification of health facilities: Liberia has about 836 functioning health facilities comprising 38 hospitals, 61 health centers and 736 clinics. About 95 percent of these facilities have no electricity or rely on costly diesel generators, and for the few that have grid electricity (mostly in the Capital Monrovia), supply is intermittent and of poor quality. Thus, electrification of health facilities has emerged as a priority especially following recent epidemics like Ebola and COVID-19. This subcomponent will focus on the urgent provision of PV services to selected health facilities to enhance the delivery of healthcare services and improve their resilience. It will target health facilities in underserved and remote rural areas in the country which are identified as priority by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in coordination with RREA.

- *System Design:* The facilities will be supplied with standalone or hybrid PV-with-battery energy systems which, depending on type and size of facility, are expected to supply electricity for, among others, (a) medical equipment loads; (b) inside and outside lighting; and (c) office equipment. System designs are standardized, informed by a series of site-specific technical assessments (energy audits), in close coordination between RREA and the MOH, under LESSAP first phase, with eight standardized system sizes based on the level-of-service of facilities. Additional surveys will be carried out in parallel to implementation to further improve targeting and avoid donor overlap. The PV arrays would be mounted mainly on roof tops of buildings or walkways or poles or in empty spaces within the facilities and thus would not require the acquisition of private lands. The lithium-ion batteries used in the designs are safer and easier to manage than other alternatives, with substantially longer operational life and safer for final disposal. However, the batteries will still require special arrangements to ensure proper recycling/disposal after the end of their useful lives. The systems allow for remote monitoring of operations, fault diagnostic and troubleshooting.
- *Business Model and Financing approach:* The subcomponent would finance (a) the supply and installation of the solar PV systems and required electrical appliances, including provision of basic operation, maintenance and safety training for health workers; (b) operations and maintenance of the installed system; and (c) TA for procurement and contract management as well as developing local capacity for repair and maintenance of such systems. The second phase would also explore mechanisms of energy as a service (EaaS) model for increasing sustainability and promoting private sector participation.

b. Subcomponent 2.a (ii): Electrification of education facilities: Besides health facilities, the project will also electrify education facilities. Sites will be selected in coordination with the Ministry of Education, with the aim to exploit synergies with ongoing World Bank

interventions in the education sector such as Excellence in Learning in Liberia (EXCEL) - P181455 as well as synergies from proximity to supported health facilities. The designs developed for health facilities will be adjusted based on energy surveys of education facilities, with the aim to develop a set of standardized, modular designs. Operation and maintenance will follow the same approach as the health facilities.

Subcomponent 2.b: Deployment of solar home systems for households and off-grid productive uses (IDA US\$ 2.5 million, ESMAP grant US\$ 1.5 million): The subcomponent will support scaling up the program by providing results-based financing (RBF) to private off-grid solar companies for solar home systems (SHS) for households developed under the first phase and expand it to include larger systems for productive uses enterprises. The RBF is designed to support the affordability of solar PV systems through partial grants for direct price reductions (i.e., grants that directly translate into price reductions for end-consumers compared to prices charged in currently served areas) and indirect price reductions (i.e., grants that cover the increased costs of expanding the supply chain to cover new areas and/or implement new business models).

Subcomponent 2.c: Piloting private-sector led mini grids (IDA US\$ 4.5 million, ESMAP grant US\$ 1.5 million): This subcomponent would support the design and implementation of pilots for reaching dispersed communities through privately-owned mini-grids. LESSAP Phase 1 carried out pre-feasibility assessments of 47 sites. On average, a mini-grid site has a demand of 732 kWh/day and the average demand per connection is 2 kWh/day. Solar-diesel hybrid mini-grids with lithium-ion energy storage with low voltage distribution are considered the most viable supply option. LESSAP Phase 1 also developed standard grant agreements. The pilot provides partial, results-based grants to mini-grids, with the private sector expected to mobilize a substantial share of the financing. Developers would be selected through a call-for-proposals, with flexibility for private sector companies to select among the 47 pre-feasibility sites, or propose their own sites. The pilot would be used to demonstrate the technical and commercial viability of mini-grid development in Liberia and its attractiveness to the private sector. The pilot will be developed in close coordination with IFC as well as UNDP's Africa Mini Grid program. Overall, this sub-component is expected to mobilize US\$ 1.5 million in private capital.

Component 3: Technical Assistance, training and capacity building of project implementation support (IDA US\$ 3 million): This component will cover the cost of strengthening the capacity of LEC Project Management Team (PMT) to manage and monitor implementation activities. It will include financing the cost of specialized consultants (technical, financial, procurement, audit, safeguards, etc.) and project staff to support the PMT, the preparation of technical design and safeguards documents, community engagement and sensitization programs, working on inclusivity and implementation of gender actions plans amongst others.

Table 1: Actual Breakdown of Project Components and Subcomponents under LESSAP 2

Project Component	Implementing Agency	Main Activities	WB Financing
Component 1	LEC	Rehabilitation and Expansion of Electricity Infrastructure and Systems and Enhancement of LEC Revenue Protection.	IDA US\$ 14 million
Subcomponent 1a	LEC	This subcomponent will complete the installation of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System initiated under the first phase	IDA US\$ 4 million
Subcomponent 1.b	LEC	Revenue Protection Program	IDA US\$10 million)
Component 3:	LEC	Technical Assistance, training and capacity building of project implementation support	(IDA US\$ 3 million):
Component 2	RREA	Off-grid Electrification of Households, Public Facilities, and Stimulation of Productive Uses in Rural Areas	IDA US\$ 13 million; ESMAP grant US\$ 3 million).
Subcomponent 2.a:	RREA	Electrification of public facilities in rural areas (Health and Education facilities)	(IDA US\$ 6 million):

Project Component	Implementing Agency	Main Activities	WB Financing
Component 2.b:	RREA	Deployment of solar home systems for households and off-grid productive uses	(IDA US\$ 2.5 million, ESMAP grant US\$ 1.5 million):
Subcomponent 2.c:	RREA	Piloting private-sector I	(IDA US\$ 4.5 million, ESMAP grant US\$ 1.5 million):

1.3 Project Locations

The grid electrification will be implemented in communities mainly in the capital Monrovia and a few in the economic corridors of Kakata and Bomi County. These communities either have existing electricity or there is an ongoing electrification project because not all areas of the communities would benefit from LESSAP-2. The actual existing networks to be rehabilitated and the distribution line routes for network extension will be determined after the detailed design works are completed.

The district offices and CSC will be located on lands within existing LEC substations, where feasible. For areas with no existing substation or where it is not suitable, LEC would arrange with county/district local authorities for suitable public lands within the catchment areas for their construction.

Off-grid Solar (OGS): It is estimated that about 300 health facilities will benefit from the OGS, but the selection of the specific health facilities and their locations has not yet been completed. The RREA is collaborating with the MoH to select the health facilities to benefit from the Project. The communities to benefit from the pilot solar mini grids and the SHS will be selected from the report of the NES study which is in the final stages of completion.

1.4 National Requirement for Stakeholder Engagement

The Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML) as well as the Environmental Protection Agency Act (EPA Act) and the EPA Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Procedural Guidelines provides for the participation of stakeholders at all levels of project cycles to ensure that their concerns and inputs are considered as part of the design, planning, project implementation and decommissioning. The law provides provision for public hearing, provides the platforms for complaints by aggrieved persons, and the opportunity to make comments and provide suggestions on project matters. Several sections of the EPML underscore the need for public consultation, public hearings, and identification of affected persons. For instance, Section 11 of the EPML, among other things, requires a project proponent or applicant to conduct public consultations to be termed as "scoping" with the objective to identify, inform and receive input from the effected stakeholders and interested parties and ensure public participation early in the ESIA process.

According to Sections 17 and 18 of the EPML, public consultations are an integral component of the EIA and resettlement action plan (RAP) requirements and the guidelines identify the following principal elements:

- Developers are required to conduct public consultation during the preparation of an ESIA.
- The formal ESIA document is made available for public review and comments. Documents to which the public has access include project briefs, ESIA terms of reference, draft and final ESIA reports, and decisions of the appropriate authorities regarding project approval.

Consultations should identify key issues and determine how the concerns of all parties will be addressed. The public will be allowed to access information and the ESIA is to be disclosed before project appraisal on the World Bank external website and on RREA/LEC websites in English. Involvement of the public in the ESIA and their relevant ESS instruments commences with the launch of the ESIA process and continues throughout the project cycle. Detailed below are the different requirements for public involvement throughout the ESIA process.

After the submission of an application for an environmental impact assessment permit, the project proponent should publish a “notice of intent” that states the information that may be necessary to allow the stakeholders or any interested party to identify their interest in the proposed project or activity. This information should include: the nature of the project, its related activities, its timeframe and its site of operation and the area that may be impacted.

Before preparing the ESIA document, the project proponent should conduct public consultations with the potential affected stakeholders. This procedure is called the “scoping process” which aims to: 1) inform the stakeholders about the project’s details, its potential impacts on the physical, biological and socio-economic environments, and the mitigation measures that can be taken to minimize these impacts; and 2) get the stakeholders’ input on various related issues. By achieving this, the scoping process is also a guiding tool for the project proponent and its consultants. It helps them to identify the project’s impacts, mitigation measures and alternatives, which will form the essential part of the ESIA document. The scoping process consists of publishing the project’s details in the affected district’s media, holding public meetings to consult directly with the affected communities and stakeholders, and incorporating the views of these stakeholders in the scoping report which is submitted to the EPA.

On the completion of the ESIA study report, the public is invited again to participate in the ESIA review through public consultation meetings. The public’s views on the ESIA are taken into consideration by the EPA when deciding about approving or rejecting the project. In some cases, the EPA also decides to hold a public hearing about the project in order to strengthen public participation. These cases include but are not limited to requests by the public for a public hearing, controversy about the project or expiry of the period stipulated for receipt of comments.

2 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

This section identifies key stakeholders who will be informed and consulted about the Project, including individuals, groups, or communities. It also identifies disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups who may have limitations in participating and/or in understanding the project information or in participating in the consultation process. The SEP, including the stakeholder list, is a “living document” which will be updated regularly throughout the life of the Project as appropriate.

For the purposes of effective and tailored stakeholders’ engagement, stakeholders of the proposed project(s) can be divided into the following three core categories:

- **Affected Parties** – persons, groups and other entities within the Project Area of Influence (PAI) that are directly influenced (actually or potentially) by the Project and/or have been identified as most susceptible to change associated with the Project, and who need to be closely engaged in identifying impacts and their significance, as well as in decision-making on mitigation and management measures;
- **Other Interested Parties** – individuals/groups/entities that may not experience direct impacts from the Project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the Project and/or who could affect the Project and the process of its implementation in some way; and
- **Vulnerable Groups** – persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the Project(s) as compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status, and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with the Project.

For the LESSAP-2, the following affected, interested and, disadvantaged groups have been identified:

Affected Parties:

- People living near facilities to be constructed by the Project.
- People who will be accommodated or temporarily residing within health facilities (i.e., patients, nurses, hospital staff, etc).
- People whose land is acquired by the Project (i.e., land acquisition for the installation of solar panels if they cannot be mounted on rooftops).
- People whose livelihoods are affected by the Project in the communities. (i.e., tree crops)

Other Interested Parties:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Ministry of Mines & Energy (MME)
- Ministry of Public Works (MPW)
- Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)
- Liberia Land Authority (LLA)
- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC)
- Liberia Telecommunication Corporation (LIBTELCO)
- Ministry of Labor (MoL)
- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)
- County and District Environmental Committees
- Civil society organizations

- Community-based organizations
- Energizing Development (EnDev)
- Ministry of Education (MoE)
- Liberia Energy Access Practitioner Network (LEAP Network)

Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individuals or Groups:

- Persons with disabilities
- Children with special needs
- Women/girls
- Orphans
- Elderly
- Single-headed households

3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

3.1 Purpose of Stakeholder Engagement Program

This SEP is designed to establish an effective platform for productive interaction with the potentially affected parties, disadvantage groups, and others with interest in the implementation outcome of the Project. The purpose of the SEP is to provide meaningful stakeholder engagement in a manner that provides stakeholders with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts and mitigation measures, throughout the project cycle. It is an essential aspect of good project management and provides opportunities to:

- Provide project related information and materials to affected and interested parties;
- Solicit feedback to inform project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation;
- Clarify project objectives and scope, and manage stakeholders' expectations;
- Assess and mitigate project environmental and social impacts and risks;
- Enhance project benefits; and
- Address project grievances.

3.2 Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure

While advancing the stakeholders engagement strategy and information disclosure under the Project, RREC/LEC will employ a variety of methods of communication to reach the majority of stakeholders. These could include project information brochures, newspaper publication, the project website, flyers, posters, LEC local offices, social media, etc.

Outreach and engagement measures will be adjusted as necessary to accommodate government requirements. The World Bank will also continue advising the client on various approaches to engage stakeholders without raising health risks, as was required for LESSAP-1 consultation during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The SEP will also routinely release information on the project's environmental and social performance, including opportunities for consultation.

The following are key ESF ESS instruments to be disclosed:

- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF),
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)
- Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)
- Labor Management Procedures (LMP)
- Environment, Safety and Health / Health and Safety (ESH/HS) Action Plan

Initially, it was anticipated that the Project may involve some resettlement activities. However, under LESSAP-1 no such resettlement issues were associated with the Project and it also appears to be unlikely any resettlement will be required under LESSAP-2. However, in the unlikely event that this changes, then ESF ESS instruments would be expanded to include Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP).

Table 1 summarizes the information to be readily accessible to different stakeholders, interested, affected and vulnerable groups, and which will facilitate informed participation. All information will be disclosed in English, Liberia's working language, unless in the case of communities in which English is not the working language, in which case relevant local language(s) will be used in a manner that is culturally appropriate.

Table 2: Strategy for Information Disclosure

Project Stage	Documents to be disclosed	Method of Document Disclosure	Location	Information to be disseminated	Target Stakeholders	Topic of Consultation	Responsibility
Preparation for design stage	PCN, ESMF, LMP, SEP including the GRM, RPF, and ESCP.	Newspaper publication, Radio announcement Phone calls Emails exchanges Formal/informal meetings Billboard/signboard Press Release Jingle and spot messages Facebook World Bank, LEC/RREA, and EPA websites Workshops and conferences Distribution of project brochures and Flyers	EPA and LEC/RREA offices Affected Community information centers What is the timetable?	Project details (activities, E&S impacts, and mitigation)	All affected and interested parties, including vulnerable groups	Project concept, benefits and anticipated E&S impacts	PCMU/PIU, ESMU (LEC/RREA)

Project Stage	Documents to be disclosed	Method of Document Disclosure	Location	Information to be disseminated	Target Stakeholders	Topic of Consultation	Responsibility
Implementation Phase 1. Project Preparation Phase	ESMPs, RAPs, any updates to the LMP, SEP and reports on project implementation including the GRM	Newspaper publication World Bank, LEC and EPA Website Workshops/Town Hall meetings	As ESMPs and RAPs become available; every six months for reports on the GRM and project implementation County/Affected Community information centers	Grievance Mechanism Committee (GMC)-functions and responsibility Compensation methods and criteria	People most likely to be directly affected by E&S impacts	Site-specific E&S impacts including land acquisition	PCMU/PIU, ESMU (LEC/RREA)
2. Construction Phase	N/A	N/A	Documents and notifications to be disclosed in advance prior to site-specific construction works, and throughout site-specific construction where a change in timing, work method, or other circumstances affecting E&S impacts and mitigation may occur.	COVID-19 safety and health protocol Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Gender Based Violence Labor and working conditions (including signing of Code of Conduct) Traffic and road safety	People most likely to be directly affected by E&S impacts Including contractor workers and PIU staff,	Site-specific E&S impacts, including timing and mitigation of impacts	PCMU/PIU, ESMU (LEC/RREA)

Project Stage	Documents to be disclosed	Method of Document Disclosure	Location	Information to be disseminated	Target Stakeholders	Topic of Consultation	Responsibility
				Community health and safety Temporary shutdown of power due to line repairs Installation of transformers and meters			

3.3 Summary of Consultation Meetings held with Relevant Stakeholders

3.3.1 September / October 2020 Consultation

In September and October 2020, LEC and RREA safeguard teams jointly held face-to-face consultation meetings with relevant Government Ministries and Agencies, local county officials and affected communities, relative to LESSAP-1. The main objectives of the consultation meetings were to introduce the proposed project to stakeholders, solicit inputs from stakeholders on the design of the LESSAP-1, and to gain their support for the Project.

A total of ten (10) consultation meetings were held with Government Ministries and Agencies in Monrovia. The safeguard team also consulted with the Superintendents and local officials of Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties, in their respective county capitals (See **Annex 3**: for list of government ministries, agencies and county superintendents consulted and issues/concerns raised and responses provided).

In addition to the above, four (4) affected communities (Whein Town, Cooper Farm, Slipway and Logan Town) were consulted in Montserrado County, one of the beneficiary counties of the proposed project. A total of two hundred and nineteen (219) participants attended the consultation meetings held with these four communities. This was an initial consultation for the appraisal stage of the Project. At the time of the consultation, the exact location/communities that would be affected by the Project were not identified. Hence, the four communities were randomly selected. However, during the meeting with local county officials, some members of other communities within the four counties also participated in the meetings. (see **Annex 3** for issues/concerns raised and responses provided at the community meetings – also summarized below; see **Annexes 7 through 9** for lists of persons who attended the various meetings).

Detailed follow-up consultation covering all the counties was conducted during project preparation and implementation.

The main issues or concerns raised by stakeholders from the above-mentioned consultation meetings can be summarized, as follows: the stakeholders unanimously welcomed the proposed project and expressed their support. Notwithstanding this expressed support, stakeholders requested continuous consultation and coordination between the project implementing agencies (LEC and RREA) and relevant line ministries and agencies including affected communities to ensure the successful implementation of the Project. The stakeholders also requested that the implementing agencies (LEC and RREA): share the project appraisal document and other relevant documents with them; adhere to national laws and policies at all stages of project planning and implementation; develop a plan to maintain and operate the solar PV systems to be installed at health facilities; prioritize local employment; avoid involuntary resettlement and, where unavoidable, compensate for properties affected; and promote gender equity with sex disaggregated data to monitor and measure the success of the proposed project.

3.3.2 March 2024 Consultation

On May 3, 2024, the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) jointly organized a one-day launch event for the proposed Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project-Phase 2 (LESSAP) Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) program. The event was held at the Corina Hotel on Tubman Boulevard in Monrovia, Liberia. The consultation was held at the level of the national stakeholders with formal letters sent to twenty-three (23) key stakeholders including 15 ministries and agencies and private partners under the off-grid. The joint team prepared a Concept Note for the program outlining the purpose and objectives of the stakeholder engagement meeting. During the event, an overview of LESSAP 1 was presented covering implementation statistics, challenges, and opportunities. This was also followed by a presentation on LESSAP 2, including background, objectives, target communities, and implementation approaches. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information, perspectives, and feedback from stakeholders involved in the proposed Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project-Phase 2 (LESSAP) Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) program. The specific objectives were as follows:

- Introduce the project to national stakeholders, relevant Government ministries and agencies, off-grid companies, potential customers, partners, investors, and other stakeholders
- Demonstrate the benefits and features of LESSAP 2 to stakeholders
- Solicit feedback and opinions that will help to shape the project design, planning, project implementation and decommissioning.
- Manage expectations and misconceptions about the outcomes of the LESSAP 2 project.
- Identify and where possible, address potential Conflicts and/or risks that may arise during implementation of LESSAP 2

The consultation meeting was conducted in two folds; both face-to-face and via virtual link. The meeting brought together a total of fifty (50) participants with 39 participants at the face-to-face meeting while 11 participants joined virtually. On the whole, the participants were overwhelmed and very supportive of the project as they indicated that the project will contribute towards improving the life of its beneficiary.

The key issues or concerns raised by stakeholders during the consultation meetings can be summarized as follows.

1. **Stakeholder Support:** Stakeholders unanimously welcomed the proposed project and expressed their support.
2. **Continuous Consultation and Coordination:** Stakeholders requested ongoing consultation and coordination between the project implementing agencies (LEC and RREA) and relevant line ministries and agencies, including affected communities, to ensure successful project implementation.
3. **Specific Requests to Implementing Agencies:**

- Share project concept notes and relevant documents with stakeholders.
 - Adhere to national laws and policies throughout project planning and implementation.
 - Prioritize local employment.
 - Avoid involuntary resettlement; if unavoidable, compensate affected properties.
- 4. Additional Suggestions and Advocacy:**
- Holistic adoption of a sustainable management plan for all donor and nationally funded projects.
 - Prioritization of gender considerations throughout the project lifecycle.
 - Advocacy for Productive Use of Electricity (PUE) to reduce energy poverty.
 - Support for clear and stable energy policies to encourage long-term investment.
 - Adaptation of appropriate technologies for Liberia's unique context.
 - Addressing higher financing costs for off-grid companies implementing Result-based Financing projects.
 - Donor coordination in the energy sector through stakeholder meetings and joint planning.
 - Legal agreements (easements or servitudes) to protect IPP infrastructure from LEC grid projects.

Details on concerns raised by participants as well as responses provided during the stakeholder engagement meetings is provided in Annex 4 to 5. Also Annex 6 contains lists of persons who attended the meeting.

4 PREVIOUS AND ONGOING STRATEGY FOR CONSULTATION

Timing and advanced planning of engagements are key elements that ensure the consultations are relevant. **Table 2** briefly describes the methods that will be used going forward (post-COVID-19) to consult with each of the stakeholder groups. It is envisaged that ongoing stakeholder engagement will continue to align with the project cycle. The project cycle does not necessarily occur in a linear way for all stakeholders and project as indicated in **Table 2**.

This SEP will be continuously updated throughout the project implementation period as and when required, to reflect changes to project design, activities and implementation arrangements. The SEP is meant to clearly lay out:

- Type of Stakeholder to be consulted
- Anticipated Issues and Interests
- Stages of Involvement
- Methods of Involvement
- Proposed Communications Methods
- Information Disclosure
- Responsible authority/institution

To ensure adequate representation and participation of the different stakeholders, the Project will rely on different consultation and disclosure methods and techniques.

4.1 Initial Round of Consultations

During the initial project consultations conducted in September and October 2020 coincided with the COVID-19 Pandemic, which necessitated that the GoL impose strict measures to limit public gatherings, meetings and people's movement. Alternative means of managing consultations and stakeholder engagement were, therefore, adopted in accordance with the local laws, policies and new social norms in effect to mitigate prevention of the virus transmission. (see **Annex 8**, COVID-19 Safety and Health Protocol).

These alternate approaches for stakeholder engagement included: restricting consultations to small groups where smaller meetings were permitted, but otherwise making reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels (e.g., WebEx, Zoom, Skype, community radio stations, etc.); diversifying means of communication and relying more on social media, chat groups, dedicated online platforms & mobile Apps (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp groups, project websites, etc.); and employing traditional channels of communications such as TV, radio, dedicated phone-lines, SMS broadcasting, public announcements when stakeholders did not have access to online channels or did not use them frequently.

4.2 Latest and Ongoing Rounds of Consultations

On May 3, 2024, the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) jointly organized a one-day launch event for the proposed Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project-Phase 2 (LESSAP) Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) program. The event was held at the Corina Hotel on Tubman Boulevard in Monrovia, Liberia.

Before the consultation meeting, the RREA and LEC Safeguard team sent formal letters to key stakeholders, outlining the purpose and objectives of the meeting. During the event, an overview of LESSAP 1 was presented, covering implementation statistics, challenges, and opportunities. This was followed by a presentation on LESSAP 2, including background, objectives, target communities, and implementation approaches.

The strategy employed interactive and facilitator-led presentations, covering project goals, timelines, benefits, and risks. Stakeholder input was actively incorporated through in-person, virtual, and written sessions. A total of 50 participants attended, representing government ministries and agencies, civil society organizations, and energy project developer and investors.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather information, perspectives, and feedback from stakeholders involved in the proposed Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project-Phase 2 (LESSAP) Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) program. The specific objectives were as follows:

1. **Diverse Perspectives:** Ensure that a diverse array of perspectives is considered during decision-making.
2. **Engagement Alignment:** Align the project's engagement plan with the needs, expectations, and concerns of stakeholders.
3. **Regulatory Compliance:** Meet regulatory requirements, especially for large-scale projects with potential environmental and social implications.
4. **Negotiations and Design:** Facilitate negotiations related to compensation, impact mitigation, and project design.

Table 3: Stakeholder Engagement Methods

Project Phase	Targeted Group	Stakeholder Engagement Method	Description and Use	location and date	Responsibility
Project Preparation	All Stakeholders	LEC/RREA and WB Website	The SEP, LMP, ESMF, RPF and ESCP will be published on the LEC/RREA and WB websites to solicit feedback	March 2024	ESMU (LEC/RREA)
Project Preparation	Communities near the project areas: community leaders, community members and other stakeholders	Face-to-face meetings (Focused Group Discussion with community leaders)	Announcement of commencement of major project activities, GRM, potential E&S impacts and risks	March 2024	ESMU (LEC/RREA)
Project Preparation and Implementation	General public and interested stakeholders	Distribution of printed public materials such as Project information leaflets, brochures, fact sheets, etc.	Will be used to convey general information on the Project and to provide regular updates on its progress to local, regional and national stakeholders.	Throughout the duration of the Project	ESMU (LEC/RREA)
Project Implementation	General public, including affected and interested stakeholders, NGOs, development partners	Community public meetings, email, phone, written communication	Distribution of project information to government agencies, organizations and companies. Invite stakeholders to public meetings.	Throughout the duration of the Project	ESMU (LEC/RREA)

4.3 Proposed strategy to incorporate the view of vulnerable groups

The consultation activities will be based on the principle of inclusiveness, transparency and accountability to build trust and allow project stakeholders to assume ownership of the project, i.e., engaging all segments of the local society, including disabled persons, women/girls and other vulnerable individuals, as specified above and identified during the project. If required, logistical assistance will be provided to enable representatives from remote areas, persons with limited physical abilities and those with insufficient financial and transportation means to attend stakeholder meetings scheduled by the Project. In cases where vulnerable status may lead to people's reluctance or physical incapacity to participate in large-scale community meetings, the project will hold separate small group discussions with them at an easily accessible venue as a way for the Project to reach out to the groups who, under standard circumstances, may be insufficiently represented at general community gatherings.

5 RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING SEP ACTIVITIES

5.1 Resources

Funding for the SEP implementation is included as part of project cost under Component 3 (Technical Assistance for institutional reform, capacity building of sector institutions, and implementation support to LEC), which will fund all Technical Assistance (TA) and communication strategies conducted at the Central level, regional counties and district levels. Preliminary funding estimated at US\$ 43,680 has been set aside for SEP implementation.

5.2 Management Function and Responsibility

A project implementation team has been established to drive project implementation including oversight of the SEP implementation. Currently, there is an existing safeguard team comprised of E&S specialists from LEC and RREA implementing and monitoring existing World Bank funded projects. The same safeguard team will handle the E&S aspects of the Project based on experience, lessons learned, and knowledge gathered from existing projects. The Environmental Specialist and Social Safeguard Specialist of the ESMU of LEC / RREA and the project coordinators of LEC /RREA will implement and monitor the SEP relative to their components. Roles and responsibilities of the LEC / RREA team are summarized in **Table 3** and discussed below.

The coordinator of the Project Coordinating and Management Unit (PCMU¹) based at LEC is responsible for overseeing the overall coordination of activities of the SEP. The project has two components – the distribution component will be done by LEC while the solar electrification component will be implemented by RREA. The safeguards specialists of LEC (ESMU / RREA) and the project coordinator(s) of LEC and RREA are responsible for timely updating and the successful implementation of the SEP. The LEC and RREA successfully implemented the World Bank funded Liberia Accelerated Electricity Expansion Project (LACEEP, and its additional financing LACEEP-AF) and Liberia Renewable Energy Access Project (LIRENAP), respectively, and presently maintain

¹ The PCMU is responsible for overall coordination of all donor funded projects and interfacing with the energy stakeholders (Government and the donors),

internal units and staff (ESMU for LEC and a senior Safeguard specialist for RREA supported by a Social Development Officer) for managing E&S impacts of the projects.

The ESMU at LEC currently has eight E&S development officers that are led by Environmental Specialist. The position of Gender and Social Safeguard Specialist is presently vacant but is expected to be filled once the ongoing procurement process is completed. Through the LACEEP and similar donor-funded projects, the ESMU with oversight of the PCMU coordinator has built some capacity to mitigate social and environmental safeguards risks. The same PCMU/ESMU of LEC and RREA is responsible for the preparation and implementation of Components 1 and 2 of the Project to capitalize on the available capacity in dealing with safeguards matters. However, the safeguard team's (both in LEC and in RREA) knowledge and familiarity of the World Bank ESF ESSs still needs to be further enhanced and supported. In view of this capacity gap, capacity building interventions covering ESF ESSs will be designed and delivered.

Based on experience working with current World Bank funded projects on project activities/components as defined in the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) the anticipated risk for the project is expected to be Moderate.

Table 4: Summary of key SEP focal persons and their responsibilities

Institution/Focus person/Unit	Responsibilities
Project Coordinators of LEC & RREA	• Provide oversight, guidance and support to the SEP process of their respective components
E&S Safeguard Specialists in the ESMU of LEC and RREA	• Facilitate the implementation of SEP • Incorporate SEP guidelines in contractor's agreements • Organize and conduct national, county and district level training on SEP and GRM • Develop and ensure effective implementation of GRM • Facilitate monitoring and coordinate monitoring activities • Keep record of all E&S issues
PCMU	• Overall oversight responsibility for the implementation of the SEP and coordination with National and Local Governmental authorities • Ensure effective implementation of SEP at county and district level • Coordinate district and county level capacity building and training

6 GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

Objective

The main objective of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is to assist in resolving complaints and grievances in a timely, efficient, and effective manner that satisfies all parties involved, to the extent possible. The GRM will operate in a manner that is proportionate to the risks and impacts of the project, and will be accessible and inclusive to all stakeholders. Specifically, it provides a transparent and credible process resulting in outcomes that are fair, effective and lasting. It also builds trust and cooperation as an integral component of broader community consultation that facilitates corrective actions. The PCMU/PIUs at LEC and RREA have informed

project-affected stakeholders about the GRM for the Project. To date, 29 Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) have already been established at the local project levels for ongoing World Bank financed projects (LACEEP, LACEEP-AF and LIRENAP). The knowledge and experience gained from working with the GRCs established by LEC and RREA will be updated where applicable, to conform to resolving grievances on LESSAP-2. For the LEC distribution component, existing GRC members, if confirmed by the affected communities, will continue their roles as members of the GRCs. The RREA GRM/GRCs are being formed as exact locations of the off grid become known.

Project related grievances can have a detrimental impact on the community, the environment, or on the complainant's quality of life. Stakeholders may also submit comments and suggestions regarding how best to resolve a grievance. The GRM provides complaint resolving measures for any dispute, appropriate redress actions and avoids, wherever possible, the need to resort to judicial proceedings. A two-tier grievance resolution mechanism has been adopted to receive and resolve grievances of the Project. The first tier requires establishing grievance redress committees at the local/community level to serve as the first instance for receiving and resolving project related grievances in a timely manner without cost to the complainants. The second tier requires establishing a grievance redress committee at the project level (PCMU/PIU) at LEC and RREA to receive and resolve grievances that cannot be resolved at the local community level. Grievances are handled at the local community and project/ levels, including a dedicated hotline which has been established. Complainants who still feel aggrieved with decisions reached by the grievance redress committees at the community and project levels have an option to seek remedy in a competent court of law.

Process of Handling Grievances

Grievances are handled at the project level by the PCMU/PIU. Grievance redress includes the following steps:

Step 1: Submission of grievances either orally or in writing

For submission of grievances either orally or in writing to a local/community GM committee or a GM officer in the PCMU/PIU, a toll-free phone line and email has been established. Walk-ins may either register a complaint in a grievance logbook or inserting a written grievance into a suggestion box at LEC/RREA offices. To ensure the GRM is accessible to all stakeholders, particularly in rural areas and those that are vulnerable, specific measures are available during consultations and reflected in this SEP. The GRM also allows for anonymous grievances to be raised and addressed.

Step 2: Recording of grievances within 24 hours

Grievances received are recorded and classified based on the complaint typology and the complainant lodging the complaint to provide more efficient response and providing the initial response within 24 hours by the GRM officer. The typology is based on the characteristics of the complainant (e.g., vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities, people with language barriers, etc.) and also the nature of the complaint.

Step 3: Investigating the grievance and Communication of the Response within 7 days based on the nature of the grievance.

Step 4: Complainant Response

In the event that a complaint is resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, it is deemed to be closed. However, where a complaint remains open and unresolved, a complainant will be given opportunity to appeal to the Grievance Redress Committee established at the PCMU/PIU.

Once a complaint has been received, by any and all channels, it will be recorded in the complaints logbook or grievance Excel sheet (grievance database). Once all possible redress has been proposed and if the complainant is still not satisfied then the complainant will be advised of their right to legal recourse.

Quarterly summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions, are collated by responsible staff and referred to LESSAP-2 senior management. The quarterly summaries provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and the nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner.

7 MONITORING AND REPORTING

The PCMU/PIU maintains a Stakeholder Engagement Log that chronicles all stakeholder engagement undertaken. The Engagement Log includes location and dates of meetings, workshops, and discussions, and a description of the project-affected parties and other stakeholders consulted. Monitoring reports presented to the Management Team include Stakeholder Engagement Logs as well as feedback from the GRM. Annual reporting of the SEP is included as part of the project monitoring report.

The Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialists in the ESMU (LEC/RREA) are responsible for monitoring the SEP in accordance with the requirements of the legal agreement, including the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and ESF ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure). The team monitors and documents any commitments or actions agreed during consultations, including changes resulting from changes in the design of the Project or the SEP.

The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary in the course of project implementation to ensure that the information presented is consistent and is the most recent, and that the identified methods of engagement remain appropriate and effective in relation to the project context and specific phases of the development. Any major changes to the project related activities and to its schedule will be duly reflected in the SEP.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Subcomponent Moved to LESSAP-3

The following subcomponent will be moved to LESSAP-3

- ***Subcomponent 1(a). Distribution Network Rehabilitation, Densification and Expansion (US\$30 million equivalent):*** The subcomponent will support the rehabilitation and expansion of the distribution network in communities with existing and ongoing construction of electricity infrastructure primarily in Monrovia and surrounding counties. Where feasible, dedicated feeders would be constructed to public facilities (health, educational, water treatment, etc.) and industries. The physical works would involve the installation of MV and LV poles (with footprint $\leq 0.6\text{m}$), MV/LV line materials (conductors/cables & accessories) and distribution transformers along existing public right-of-way (ROW) of roads, streets, avenues, etc. reserved by the Ministry of Public Works for the use of utilities. Activities under subcomponent 1a are subdivided into the following broad areas:
 - *Rehabilitation and Expansion of Distribution Network in Communities with Existing Electricity Infrastructure:* This subcomponent will seek to: (a) expand the distribution load capacity by about 50MVA and improve quality and reliability of supply by rehabilitating and constructing about 250km MV/LV lines and replacing all damaged or overloaded transformers with higher capacity ones (250 in total).
 - *Densification and Expansion of Distribution Network in Communities with ongoing Bank-financed Liberia Accelerated Electricity Expansion Project (LACEEP, P133445):* This proposed subcomponent will intensify the network to capture all households in the beneficiary communities and extend supply to the new communities along the corridor. It is expected that about 65km of MV lines and 350km of LV lines would be constructed, 450 transformers installed and new connections to about 80,000 households and businesses would be completed.

Annex 2: Subcomponent Dropped from LESSAP-1

The following subcomponent was dropped from LESSAP-1

- ***Subcomponent 1(c). Establishment of District Offices and Customer Service Centers (US\$4.5 million equivalent)***: This subcomponent will support the construction of the physical infrastructure (offices, customer centers, stores etc.) as well as vehicles and tools required for the establishment of district offices and Customer Service Centers (CSCs). A typical district office will have office/working space for the district manager, district engineer/district technical officer and staff, commercial officer and staff, etc.) and will require approximately 0.5acre of land. These district offices will be located on lands within existing LEC substations at Stockton Creek, Garnerville, Paynesville, Kakata and Kle and will not require land acquisition. The CSCs would be constructed in ten selected communities in the districts but located far from the district offices. The customer service centers will be for fault reporting, and LV and service connection repair works in their catchment areas. LEC is arranging with county/district local authorities to local suitable public lands available within the catchment areas for the CSCs. The physical structures for the district offices and CSC will be comprised of 20-footer containerized office structures that can be deployed quickly and do not require serious civil construction works.

Annex 3: Meetings held with Government Ministries², Agencies and Local County Superintendents³ under LESSAP 1

No	Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Thematic Area	Level of support	Feedback/Recommendation
1.	Ministry of Mines and Energy	September 15, 2020		Strongly in favor	• The Ministry of Mines and Energy welcomed the project and stated that it should be involved in the implementation of the project, (ex. information sharing, consultations, meetings, etc.) as all energy related information in Liberia emanates from the Ministry. • Consideration for communities within Monrovia, that are not yet connected to the existing LEC grid connection
2.	Ministry of Health	Sept. 18, 2020	Health	In support of the project	• The Ministry of Health indicated that the Health Infrastructure Implementation Unit should be adequately consulted and involved at the planning and implementation stages of the proposed project • The Ministry of Health already has ongoing discussions with few other donor institutions to provide support to projects targeting access to solar PV energy for health care facilities in rural areas • The Ministry also said that it had a challenge with the maintenance and sustainability of previous

² A letter requesting a meeting with the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning were served but the meetings were not held after several follow-ups done by LEC and RREA safeguards team.

³ Also, meeting with the Superintendent of Montserrado County was not held but same will be subsequently re-scheduled.

No	Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Thematic Area	Level of support	Feedback/Recommendation
					solar PV systems installed at health facilities in Liberia • That public healthcare services are free of charge and the government may not be able to generate revenue from the use of solar PV energy services to cover maintenance under the proposed project • Health centers and hospitals are the facilities with high energy consumption needs to run laboratory services, operation rooms, maternal & child health services, pharmacies, etc. • Clinics have low power consumption need and they constitute majority of healthcare facilities in Liberia.
3.	Environmental Protection Agency	September 20, 2020	Environment		• The EPA welcomed the project and requested that the framework document (RPF & ESMF) be shared with them for their input/comment before public disclosure. • An updated ESIA procedural guideline (2017) contains section on RAP procedure which can aid in the preparation of the RPF. • The magnitude of project impact cannot be properly assessed and considered at this stage of the project as Moderate because the project details and specific sites are not known.
4.	Liberia Land Authority	Sept. 8, 2020	Land use, land governance and administration	In support of the project	• Welcomed the project and thanked the LEC and RREA for the meeting. • Need for continuous consultation with all stakeholders regarding the proposed project.

No	Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Thematic Area	Level of support	Feedback/Recommendation
					• Outsource the distribution component to locals as it is done with the Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (CLSG) project in Nimba • Sustainability of the project in rural areas • Minimize Resettlement Impacts • Appointed a focal person from LLA to coordinate with LEC and RREA during implementation of the project
5.	Ministry of Public Works	Sept.16.2020	Zoning/Right of Way use and access	Partially in favor	• Welcomed the project but stated that it will only participate in any form of meeting upon submission of LESSAP Project documents for its review and inputs. • The role of the Ministry of Public Works should be clearly defined, including budgetary allotment for its activities on the proposed project.
6.	Ministry of Agriculture	Sept.16.2020	Tree & Cash crops impacts	Strongly in favor	• Welcomed the project and stated that an updated price list for tree crops compensation be considered • Project documents be shared for its review and inputs. • Priority should be given to agriculture sectors as a mean to boost food security, production and sustainability
7.	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Sept. 10, 2020	Local Governance	In support of the project	• copies of the project documents should be shared with the Ministry • project should develop plans to maintain and rehabilitate solar PV systems to be installed at various health centers or facilities

No	Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Thematic Area	Level of support	Feedback/Recommendation
					• Appointed Mr. Emmanuel Whenyou, as focal person from MIA to coordinate with LEC and RREA during implementation of the project • Volunteered to send letters to the Superintendents of the five counties where the project will be implemented, to inform them about LEC and RREA engagement meetings with them. • Emphasized the need for continuous consultation
8..	Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation	September 10, 2020	Water and Sewer/ competing interest for right-of-way use for public utilities	Strongly in favor	• Welcomed the project and emphasized the need for flow of communication, consultations and coordination at every stage of the project • LEC should adhere to all existing Agreements entered into between their respective Institutions
9.	Liberia Telecommunication Corporation	Sept. 10, 202	competing interest for right-of-way use for public utilities	In support of the project	Welcomed the project and intimated that the LEC and LIBTELCO should combine national resources to achieve the following goals: • develop an infrastructure sharing model for LEC and LIBTELCO; • Design LEC's pole infrastructure and high voltage network to accommodate LIBTELCO fibers. • set up fiber network and national data center to monitor usage of power and at the same time allow LIBTELCO to use the same infrastructure. • Need for Continuous Consultation between LEC and LIBTELCO

No	Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Thematic Area	Level of support	Feedback/Recommendation
10.	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare	September 11, 2020	Gender, Children and Social Protection	In support of the project	• The Ministry of Gender welcomed the project and indicated that light is security for women and girls. • Nurses in rural areas sometimes used their mobile phones at night to attend to pregnant women giving birth at their health facilities. • project should seek to empower women and sustain their livelihood • There should be sex or gender disaggregated data to monitor and measure the success of the proposed project • Emphasis should be given to the National Gender Policy of Liberia • There should be continuous consultation • Project documents or information should be shared with the Ministry
11.	Superintendent of Margibi	Sept. 23, 2020	local governance/ direct project beneficiaries? The same applies to the other counties where the project will be implemented.		• The Superintendent of Margibi County welcomed the project and said that nearly all healthcare facilities in Margibi County are in need of power. • The proposed project should provide electricity to both private and public owned health facilities in Margibi County. • The local county leadership is in support of the proposed project
12.	Superintendent of Grand Cape Mount County	September 25, 2020	local governance and direct project	Strongly in favor	• Emphasized the need for the proposed project to provide broad support for gender mainstreaming in every aspect of the project, and this includes

No	Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Thematic Area	Level of support	Feedback/Recommendation
			beneficiary. The same applies to the other counties where the project will be implemented.		employment opportunity, gender equality and equity. • That at least 40% of households that will be electrified under the project should be female headed. • Selection of health facilities for the purpose of the project should be done in consultation with project communities at local level. • Private health facilities that provide critical services to the communities should be considered. • Avoid involuntary resettlement and if avoidance is impossible, compensate for private properties affected by the project.
13.	Superintendent of Bomi County	Sept. 24, 2020	local governance/ direct project beneficiaries? The same applies to the other counties where the project will be implemented.	Strongly in favor, but with reservations	• The Superintendent and local county officials of Bomi County welcomed the proposed project and indicated the need for vigorous information dissemination of the project to avoid misunderstanding, misinformation and misinterpretation of the project development objectives. • Whenever possible, local workforce should be prioritized for employment during the construction of the project. • Contractors should consider Corporate Social Responsibility as one of their deliverables • Training of local work force in basic maintenances and repair of electrical appliances and service should be considered as a deliverable for

No	Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Thematic Area	Level of support	Feedback/Recommendation
					contractors. By so doing, the local Liberian workforce will be learning by doing, coaching, teaching and mentoring. • selection of health facilities for the proposed project should be done in consultation with communities at the local level. • Need for GM through which concerns/complains will be channeled for redress
14.	Superintendent of Grand Bassa County	Sept. 24, 2020	local governance/ direct project beneficiaries? The same applies to the other counties where the project will be implemented		• The Superintendent and local county officials of Grand Bassa County welcomed the proposed project and intimated that there is huge need for electricity in Buchanan to run local government institutions and also boom the local economy • fishery activities incur huge cost of storage for preservation of sea foods • The County Authority of Grand Bassa is poised to collaborate and give its support to make the project successful in areas of preventing power theft and carrying out community awareness

Annex 4: Issues Raised and Responses Provided in the Consultation Meetings with National Stakeholders Under LESSAP 2

No	Issue/Concern Raise	Response (s) Provided
1.	What is the precise goal of this project?	The goal of the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP) Phase 2 is to increase access to electricity and improve the operational efficiency of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), and also support the implementation of off-grid components that will be implemented by RREA. This project, funded by the World Bank, focuses on rehabilitating and expanding electricity infrastructure, enhancing distribution networks, and extending access to electricity. The second phase of LESSAP aims to further strengthen Liberia's power sector and contribute to the country's development and resilience.
2.	Who are the Project implementers?	The implementing agencies for the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP) Phase 2 are the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA). These organizations play a crucial role in executing the project, which aims to increase access to electricity and improve the operational efficiency of Liberia's power sector. The second phase of LESSAP is funded by the World Bank and focuses on rehabilitating and expanding electricity infrastructure, enhancing distribution networks, and extending access to electricity
3.	How are the Project implementers going to promote and ensure adequate communication, collaboration and sharing of information among stakeholders	To promote effective communication, collaboration, and information sharing among stakeholders, the implementers will employ several strategies: • Stakeholder Engagement Workshops and Meetings: Regular workshops and meetings will be organized involving key stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and development partners. These gatherings will provide a platform for sharing project updates, addressing concerns, and fostering collaboration. • Communication Channels: Implementers will establish clear communication channels, such as newsletters, project websites, and social media platforms. These channels will disseminate project information, progress reports, and

No	Issue/Concern Raise	Response (s) Provided
		relevant announcements to stakeholders. • Community Outreach: The project team will engage with local communities through awareness campaigns, town hall meetings, and community forums. This approach ensures that community members are informed about project activities and can actively participate in decision-making processes • Capacity Building: Implementers will enhance the capacity of LEC staff, government officials, and other relevant stakeholders in effective communication and collaboration. Training programs will focus on skills related to stakeholder engagement, conflict resolution, and information sharing. • Partnerships: Collaborating with other organizations, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development agencies, and private sector entities, will facilitate knowledge exchange and resource sharing. Partnerships can enhance the project's impact and sustainability. • Feedback Mechanisms: Implementers will establish feedback mechanisms to receive input from stakeholders. Regular surveys, suggestion boxes, and online platforms will allow stakeholders to express their views, raise concerns, and provide feedback on project implementation. By adopting these strategies, LESSAP Phase 2 aims to create a supportive environment for all stakeholders involved in Liberia's electricity sector.
4.	Are there any studies conducted on potential environmental, social, health and cultural impacts of the project on local communities?	The Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP) Phase 2 has undergone environmental and social assessments to evaluate its potential impacts on local communities. Here are some relevant findings: 1. Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS): • The World Bank conducted an ESRS for LESSAP Phase 2, which includes an assessment of environmental and social aspects. While the ESRS does not provide detailed studies, it outlines the project's objectives and context¹.

No	Issue/Concern Raise	Response (s) Provided
5.	Does the Project have sustainability plan?	The proposed project incorporates sustainability considerations to ensure long-term impact with emphasis on the followings: 1. Operational Sustainability: ○ LESSAP Phase 2 aims to improve the operational efficiency of LEC. By enhancing LEC's capacity that will contribute to the sustainability of electricity services, thus, reducing losses, enhance revenue collection, and promote financial stability. 2. Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Expansion: ○ The project focuses on rehabilitating and expanding electricity infrastructure. Upgrading existing facilities and extending the distribution network enhance the reliability and longevity of the system to ensures sustained electricity supply to communities. 3. Community Engagement and Ownership: ○ It will engage local communities through awareness campaigns, workshops, and community forums that will fosters a sense of ownership and encourages responsible use of electricity. 4. Environmental Considerations: ○ While specific studies are not detailed in the provided documents, the project aims to minimize adverse environmental impacts, and Implementers will prioritize environmentally friendly practices during construction, operation, and maintenance. 5. Capacity Building and Training: ○ It will include capacity-building programs for LEC staff and relevant stakeholders to enhances skills related to project management, maintenance, and customer service to ensures sustained project outcomes. 6. Monitoring and Evaluation:

No	Issue/Concern Raise	Response (s) Provided
		○ Implementers will monitor project performance and assess its impact over time to help identify areas for improvement and ensure project sustainability.
6.	What will be the roles and support of the off-grid companies during the implementation of the Project?	In the second phase of the Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP), there is a focus on supporting off-grid companies that will include the followings: 1. Off-Grid Support ○ During the project implementation, off-grid companies will play a crucial role in expanding energy access beyond the traditional grid. Their specific activities include: ▪ Solar Home Systems: These systems involve the installation of PV panels, inverters, and batteries in selected health facilities, education centers and individual households. ▪ Mini-Grids: Off-grid companies may establish stand-alone systems for households, public institutions, and communities in remote and dispersed areas of Liberia. ▪ They will contribute to the project's success by providing innovative solutions for energy access in underserved areas.
7.	What are the Project's gender mainstreaming guidelines?	The project will mainstream gender through by integrating gender considerations systematically throughout the project lifecycle wit focus on the following: 1. Understand the existing gender dynamics related to energy access, use, and decision-making. 2. Incorporate gender-responsive activities into project design and implementation. Examples include: ○ Promoting women's participation: Ensure women's involvement in decision-making processes related to energy.

No	Issue/Concern Raise	Response (s) Provided
		○ Addressing gender-specific needs: Design energy solutions that meet women's practical requirements (e.g., clean cooking solutions). ○ Reducing gender-based violence: Consider safety concerns related to energy access. ▪ Supporting women-led microenterprises: Encourage income-generating activities in the energy sector. ▪ Capacity-building: Train project staff and partners on gender mainstreaming.
8.	Will the proposed project be void of political interferences?	Politics is part of human nature which makes it difficult to divorce human activities from political interferences. However, the project is a politically neutral project with the main objective to reduce poverty. Hence, the implementing agencies of the project will endeavor as much as possible to avoid or minimize political interference at all stages of the project, through clearly defined roles, guidelines and principles.
9.	How will the project determine appropriate compensation mechanisms for individuals whose properties will be affected by the project?	The Constitution of Liberia and other Liberian Laws provide the basis for fair and just compensation for individual's property(ies) affected by development project for public use, such as the proposed project. Hence, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, a just and transparent compensation mechanisms will be determined for affected properties.
10.	What are your suggestions to address the problem with involuntary resettlement? Do you have previous experiences with it?	Building on experiences from ongoing World Bank funded projects implemented in Liberia (LIRENAP, LACEEP, and LACEEP-AF), we can safely say that the compensation measures will be just, adequate and satisfactory. But in the case where there's a gap, measures will be taken to address them in the best interest of all parties.
11.	Is there any mechanism to mitigate misunderstanding and	Yes, the project will have Grievance Mechanisms (GMs) at various levels, and this will include: Community, District, County and National levels. Each level of the GM will strive to satisfactorily address concerns or complaints related to the project

No	Issue/Concern Raise	Response (s) Provided
	address concerns amongst project stakeholder?	activities. Additionally, there will be pragmatic information dissemination campaigns on both local and national media outlets to inform the public about the project activities.
12.	What criteria did the project proponents use to select the five counties as beneficiaries of the project (Margibi, Bomi, Cape Mount, Grand Bassa Counties)?	The five referenced counties are within the major economic corridors of Liberia and they were selected given their proximity to the existing and planned electricity grid of the country. The project approach is to first provide access to electricity to these five counties which will indirectly boom economic development across other parts of the country. Subsequently, the electricity network will be expanded to reach other counties in Liberia, based on the availability of additional funding.
14.	What opportunities are there for youth and women empowerment?	The proposed project, when approved, will create both direct and indirect job opportunities but not everyone will be employed. Also, through the availability and productive use of electricity, the project will empower local communities to sustainably manage and expand their business network, generate more revenues, and elevate themselves to higher standard of living. With the completion of the project, women who are generally affected by inhaling smoke causing respiratory problems from cooking with wood and charcoal will be safe, as more women will then use electricity for cooking. Additionally, contractors operating in the project communities will be encouraged to recruit local workforce, including the youth, whenever possible.
15.	What is the Project plan on gender, does the Project have specific gender policy/plan?	In accordance with the National Gender Policy of Liberia, the project will mainstream gender and where applicable, the project may develop a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to ensure that gender issues are adequately addressed throughout the project life cycle.

Annex 5: Specific Concerns and Recommendation provided by Participants during Stakeholder Engagement Meeting under LESSAP 2

NO.	NAME	INSTITUTION	CONCERNS RAISED	RESPONSE/LEC & RREA
1.	Steven Payma	Rural Renewable Energy Agency	What are the plans to incorporate the private sector or actors into the energy sector?	The LEC has some private sector incorporated in the energy sector, as evident in the Bong, Nimba, Fish Town, and Pleebo corridors, as those connections are currently managed by private firms. An example is the Jungle Energy Power (JEP) operating in Nimba and Bong.
2.	Albert Toukolon	Ministry of Public Works	- What are the challenges encountered during the implementation of LESSAP? - It is recommended that roles and responsibilities be allotted to key stakeholders for such engagement in order to have them in attendance.	- Consultants and contractors are currently being recruited for the project, E&S instruments have been compiled, and the engineering design has been reviewed and approved. As construction work has not yet begun, we are unable to say what challenges will be faced in implementing the project. - Recommendation is noted.

3.	Anthony N. Borlay	Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection	• What strategy has been deployed to incorporate marginalized groups in the project corridor? • It is recommended to recruit females on the project for capacity building as part of the project's beneficiaries.	• The project is non-discriminatory; the benefit of the project is cut across every individual in the project corridor. • Recommendation is noted.
4.	Lily Olive Saab	LEAP Network	• What are the plans to work with the mini-grid developer when LEC starts to operate in off-grid areas? • How does capacity building tend to benefit all implementing partners of the project. • How do you describe your level of success in the	• There is always coordination and information dissemination with mini-grid developers whenever the entity wants to start operation in off-grid areas. • Capacity building under the project shall benefit all implementing partners. • The level of success of the project can only be described at the end of its implementation.

			implementation of the project.	
5.	Jocelia J. Taplah	Ministry of Public Works	Stakeholder engagement should be a holistic approach that incorporates all government entities and partners.	Recommendation Noted.
6.	Thomas M. Parker	Ministry of Education	Is there a plan to include women beneficiaries under the project?	The project is non-discriminatory, and its beneficiaries are gender-balanced.
7.	William B. Toe	Ministry of Mines & Energy	Will electricity be affordable enough to serve the poor, as they have no source of income?	Project materials and connections will be provided on a free basis. Thus, project beneficiaries are responsible for purchasing their electricity as they can afford.
8.	Desmond T. Thompson	EPA	What are the Environmental Impacts of the project?	The environmental impacts are identified during the conduct of the environmental and social impacts assessment. After that study is conducted, the impacts of the project will be known.
9.	Stanley Mccauley	RREA	Recommends the establishment of an assest management policy that will serve as a guiding tool for safeguarding assests in the energy sector.	Recommendation Noted.

Annex 6: Attendance of Consultation Meeting with National Stakeholders under LESSAP 2



Stakeholder Consultation of the Proposed Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project-Phase 2 (LESSAP) Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) program

Date: May 3, 2024

Time: 10:00 Am

Venue: Cape Hotel

NO	NAME	INSTITUTION	POSITION	CONTACT
1	Anthony P. Wanyler, II.	REA	PM/Tech. Lead	0776047690
2	Daniel B. Little	RREA	Coord. Dev. Special	07770392408
3	DADLEY D. TOE	LEC	Project Manager	1770-107205
4	PEDESCO D. HINNETH	LEC	Soc. Safeguards S.P.	0776880142
5	Morris Kanneh	LEC	Env. Engineer	0775099343
6	Robert G. Jesse Jr.	LEC	project driver	077257505
7	Patience Achaaberg-Lund	LEC	Environmental Spec.	0775318915
8	Keindiyandi K. Bryant	EPA	Research officer	0880869913
9	Stanley McCauley	RREA	media officer	0775729370
10	Valerie S. Toby	RREA	M&E officer	0886423338
11	Ronnell B. Tugbre	RREA	Env. officer	0770767532
12	STEVEN PANYMA	RREA	BUS. DEV. SPECIALIST	0777585761
13	William B. Toe	MME	Director Energy dev.	0778882277
14	Darius N. Karna	OKFM	Reporter	0770384988



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15	GEORGE B. GUZELU, II	MME	Director	0777338353
16	Lincoln G. Peters	Nel-Denn	Rep. Dir.	07762583
17	Anthony N. Bonlay	MGCS	Director, Policy/Plan	0777008491
18	Melvin M. Lansana	BRAC Liberia	Business Development	077687569
19	Thomas M. Parkes	Ministry of Education	Asst. Minister for Planning	077097970
20	Gerald S. Poe	NCE	SA Minister	0778049623
21	Olga F. F. F. F.	LEC	REC SPECIALIST	077555622
22	Pastorina Mashingidzo	LEC	Proc. Specialist	088613435
23	Christian C. Davies	LEC	Environmental Engineer	0770071765
24	Moses E. Farley	LEC	ED-PROJECTS	0770479709
25	Stephen V. Potter, Jr.	RRBA	RRD-Program	0886525505
26	Emmanuel I. C. I.	LEC		07766401809
27	Jocelyn J. Tapah	MPW	Dep. Minister	0886574444
28	Louise E. Newberry	RREA	Gender officer	0775679111
29	Charlesetta M. Nyebe	RREA	Finance officer	0770117515
30	Lily Olive Saab	LEAP Network	Administrator	0770322803
31	Albert Toukolan	MPW	Asst. Minister	0770763078
32	Desmond T. Thompson	EPA	Project Liaison	0886596220
33	Maximilian Ryssel	GVZ	PM	0886073201



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34	Charles G. Kamahine	LGC	Media Officer	0777969029
35	Daniela Gray-Johnson	LLA	Project Director	0776919308
36	George B. Cooper	RREA	DPI. Prog. Mgr	0777684007
37	Nathan J. Hayes	SSGE	CEO	077858517
38	Jewel B. Harris	LEC	EE's Assistant	077760548
39	Stanley R.A. Yangboi	LEC	EE's Officer	0776082902
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Annex 7: Attendance of meetings with Government Ministries and Agencies under LESSAP 1

 Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
Stakeholder Engagement for Phase 1 of Project Appraisal
Activities

Meeting Attendance **Sept 8, 2020**
11:00 AM

Liberia Land Authority

No	Name	Institution	Title	Phone #	Email	Signature
1.	Mencer T. P. P. P.	LLA	Asst. Dir.	077028204	mencer.p@lla.gov	
2.	Samuel F. K. K.	LLA	Director	0770144144	Samuel.k@lla.gov	
3.	Mr. K. K. K.	LLA	Comm.	077055641	kusor.k@lla.gov	
4.	Boima C. K. K.	LLA	Tech. Asst.	0770582816	boima.c@lla.gov	
5.	Samuel G. K. K.	LLA	Proj. Director	077041938	gjohnson@lla.gov	
6.	Kwesi F. F.	LLA	PRD	07704415	kwesi.f@lla.gov	
7.	Stevens P. P.	RREA	Bus. Officer	077050961	stevens.p@lla.gov	
8.	Dave Soure	LEC	NGSSA	07705558	dave.soure@lla.gov	
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 Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
Stakeholder Engagement for Phase 1 of Project Appraisal
Activities

LIBTELCO Meeting Attendance **Sept. 10, 2020**
12:00 PM

No	Name	Institution	Title	Phone #	Email	Signature
1.	Richmond T. T.	LTC	CEO	077022341	richmond.t@lta.gov	
2.	Andrew S. S.	LTC	Deputy	077022341	andrew.s@lta.gov	
3.	Stevens P. P.	RREA	Bus. Officer	07705558	stevens.p@lla.gov	
4.	Dave Soure	LEC	NGSSA	07705558	dave.soure@lla.gov	
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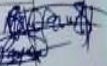
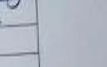
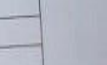
Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
Stakeholder Engagement for Phase I of Project Appraisal
Activities



Meeting Attendance

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Sept. 10, 2020
10:30am

No	Name	Institution	Title	Phone #	Email	Signature
1.	Dave Sourie	LEC	NGSSA	077096588	dave.sourie@lec.gov	
2.	STEVEN PAYMA	RREA	bus. officer	077-155761	stevenp@rra.gov	
3.	Hon. VANCEY S. S. S. S.	MIA	Minister	077513621	vancey@mia.gov	
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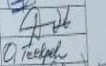
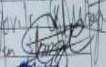
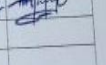
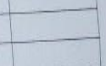
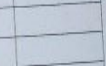
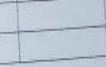
Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
Stakeholder Engagement for Phase I of Project Appraisal
Activities



Meeting Attendance

Venue: Ministry of Agriculture

Date: Wednesday, Sept 16, 2020

No	Name	Institution	Title	Phone #	Email	Signature
1.	Adam B. Bility	RREA	Senior Dev. Consultant	0886621246	adam.bility@rra.gov	
2.	Rosevelt C. Rades	MCA	Agriculture Engineer	088845324	rades@mc.gov	
3.	DAVID L. RILES	RREA	Environmentalist	0881527484	driles@rra.gov	
4.	Oliver Boge Teekpeh	MCA	Plant Pathologist	0776526501	oliver.teekpeh@mc.gov	
5.	J. W. W. W. W.	MCA	Director / M&E	0775549877	j.w.w.w.w@mc.gov	
6.	G. Moses Zolue	MCA	Soil Scientist	0775553921	mzolu@mc.gov	
7.	Halala W. Kokubo	MCA	Director / DHR	0776282026	halala@mc.gov	
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Annex 8: Attendance of meetings with Superintendents and Local County Officials under LESSAP 1

Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
Stakeholder Engagement for Phase 1 of Project Appraisal
Activities

Sept. 24, 2020
10:30 am

Meeting with Superintendent
Buchanan, Grand Bassa

Meeting Attendance

No	Name	Institution	Title	Phone #	Email	Signature
1.	Janey Baikpeh	MIA	Superintendent G. Coast	077261044	baikpehjaney@gmail.com	Janey Baikpeh
2.	Manel Willie	NEA	Asst. Dir. of Fiscal Mgmt	077067099	manelwillie@yahoo.com	Manel Willie
3.	Dave Soure	LEC	NGSA	07775888	davesoure@yahoo.com	Dave Soure
4.	Patience Anahabou	LEC	NEA	07753395	patienceanahabou@yahoo.com	Patience Anahabou
5.	Stella Paya	RDEA	Chief of Office	07753961	stellapaya@yahoo.com	Stella Paya
6.	Gregory Walla	BACHT	Adminstr	077512231	gregwalla@yahoo.com	Gregory Walla
7.	Karoly Johnson	BACHT	Acc	077512231	karolyjohnson@yahoo.com	Karoly Johnson
8.	Kofi R. Nye	BACHT	ADGUBU	077020583	kofi.nye@outlook.com	Kofi R. Nye
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Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
Stakeholder Engagement for Phase 1 of Project Appraisal
Activities

Meeting Attendance
Robertson, Grand Cape Mount County
Thursday, Sept 24, 2020

No	Name	Institution	Title	Phone #	Email	Signature
1.	Christina H. Lebr	R/Sport	Business Admin	077555871	christinah.lebr@gmail.com	Christina H. Lebr
2.	Patricia J. Williams	R/Sport	Business Admin	077555871	patriciaj.williams@gmail.com	Patricia J. Williams
3.	Salvador V. Lomie	LISCIS	Local Director	0776 019 296	salvadorv.lomie@gmail.com	Salvador V. Lomie
4.	Muriel D. Kellie	MIA	Coordinator (CSC)	0777-083-605	murielkellie@gmail.com	Muriel D. Kellie
5.	Abraham M. Fohobeh	CNDRA	County Coordinator	0775355036	abrahamfohobeh@gmail.com	Abraham M. Fohobeh
6.	M. Randolph K. Kromah	NEA	Chief of Office	0772676 87	mrandolphkromah@gmail.com	M. Randolph K. Kromah
7.	Bonita Kiani	MOH	County Inspector	0770821552	bonitakiani@gmail.com	Bonita Kiani
8.	Victor Hodge	RACE	Contractor	0773736152	victorhodge@gmail.com	Victor Hodge
9.	Robert M. Freeman	MIA	County Inspector	0775384202	robertmfreeman@gmail.com	Robert M. Freeman
10.	Robert B. Thompson	MOH	County Inspector	0775-463-600	robertbthompson@gmail.com	Robert B. Thompson
11.	Anna Line B. Agui	R/Sport	Business Admin	0775384202	annalineb.agui@gmail.com	Anna Line B. Agui
12.	James M. Williams	MOH	County Inspector	0775384202	jamesmwilliams@gmail.com	James M. Williams
13.	Dixon H. Williams	LISCIS	City Council	0776158092	dixonhwilliams@gmail.com	Dixon H. Williams
14.	Momou Serrah	C/M	City Council	0777624752	momouserrah@gmail.com	Momou Serrah
15.	Asim V. Mordel	RCC	Member	077244-227	asimv.mordel@gmail.com	Asim V. Mordel

Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
Stakeholder Engagement for Phase 1 of Project Appraisal
Activities

Meeting Attendance
Robertson, Grand Cape Mount County
Thursday, Sept 24, 2020

No	Name	Institution	Title	Phone #	Email	Signature
1.	Asim V. Mordel	RCC	Member	077244-227	asimv.mordel@gmail.com	Asim V. Mordel
2.	Kepa V. Kromah	MIA	Asst. Dir. of Fiscal Mgmt	077067099	kepavkromah@gmail.com	Kepa V. Kromah
3.	Patricia J. Williams	R/Sport	Business Admin	077555871	patriciaj.williams@gmail.com	Patricia J. Williams
4.	M. Randolph K. Kromah	NEA	Chief of Office	0772676 87	mrandolphkromah@gmail.com	M. Randolph K. Kromah
5.	Abraham M. Fohobeh	CNDRA	County Coordinator	0775355036	abrahamfohobeh@gmail.com	Abraham M. Fohobeh
6.	Francis M. Kromah	MOH	County Inspector	0775384202	francis.m.kromah@gmail.com	Francis M. Kromah
7.	Patience Anahabou	LEC	NEA	07753395	patienceanahabou@yahoo.com	Patience Anahabou
8.	Stella Paya	RDEA	Chief of Office	07753961	stellapaya@yahoo.com	Stella Paya
9.	Gregory Walla	BACHT	Adminstr	077512231	gregwalla@yahoo.com	Gregory Walla
10.	Karoly Johnson	BACHT	Acc	077512231	karolyjohnson@yahoo.com	Karoly Johnson
11.	Kofi R. Nye	BACHT	ADGUBU	077020583	kofi.nye@outlook.com	Kofi R. Nye
12.	Manel Willie	NEA	Asst. Dir. of Fiscal Mgmt	077067099	manelwillie@yahoo.com	Manel Willie
13.	Dave Soure	LEC	NGSA	07775888	davesoure@yahoo.com	Dave Soure
14.	Janey Baikpeh	MIA	Superintendent G. Coast	077261044	baikpehjaney@gmail.com	Janey Baikpeh
15.	Susannah Wilson	R/Sport	General Sec'd	07737916	susannahwilson@gmail.com	Susannah Wilson



Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project
Stakeholder Engagement for Phase 1 of Project Appraisal
Activities



Meeting Attendance

Tubmanburg, Bomi County
Thursday, Oct 24, 2020

No	Name	Institution	Title	Phone #	Email	Signature
1.	Abraham Bility	RREA	Sol. Dev. Off. 6	088662136	abrahambility@gmail.com	[Signature]
2.	Matthew F. Kinn	LEC	ESMD/LEC	0777091960	mmkinn@lec.com	[Signature]
3.	David L. Williams	RREA	ESS	0886527449	davidwilliams@rra.com	[Signature]
4.	James B. Jallah	LRA	Land Administrator	0776452566	Jamesjallah@lra.com	[Signature]
5.	Titus E. Smith	MIA	Proj. Dev. S. P.	0777303366	titus@miag.com	[Signature]
6.	Victor B. Johnson	MIA	Admin. Asst.	0772390578	vjohnson@miag.com	[Signature]
7.	Roselyn M. Tokeh	MIA	ASFA	0886406419	jettrose31@gmail.com	[Signature]
8.	Obaidah Varnay	MIA	City Manager	077265324		[Signature]
9.	Titus F. NABE	MIA	Filing Clerk	017274750	titus@miag.com	[Signature]
10.	MUSI DUKUS	MIA	Receptionalist	0776272265		[Signature]
11.	Varnay Ek Mkeed	MIA/RC	City Manager	0776845384		[Signature]
12.	Abraham J. Kinn	MIA	Supervisor	0777910313	abrahamkinn@gmail.com	[Signature]
13.						
14.						
15.						

Annex9: Attendance of Meetings with Affected Communities in Montserrado County under LESSAP 1



Liberia Electricity Corporation
Stakeholder Consultation (Affected Communities)
Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP)



Name of Community: Copper farm
 Venue: Confidence School system
 Date: Oct. 16, 2020
 Time: 2:00pm

Attendance

No	Name	Community	Position	Phone	Signature	E-mail
1	Walter Johnson	Copper Farm	Secretary B-D	0775569429		
2	John Y. Flomo Sr.	"	Elder	0886744754		
3	David K. Sump	"	Elder	0777300815		johnyflomo1949@gmail.com
4	Faith V. Kibuboh	"	Member	0776596417		
5	Joseph K. Blabie Jr	"	"	077730530		
6	Frankie Baar	"	"	0776656875		blabiejr@gmail.com
7	Enoch J. Gbaramelli	"	"	0886564005		GBAAR
8	Izetta H. Holmes	"	"	0774749113		E G
9	Paul T. Jacob	"	"	0886115695		
				0776607184		PTJ

Present at the meeting from LEC, were: Dave Souvie, and
 Patience Anwariblen

No	Name	Community	Position	Phone	Signature
10	Leamon Freeman	Member	0776411323	LF	
11	ALCA paywah	Cooper far	0770106902		
12	Prince Smith	"	0776395000		
13	Prince Kanore	"	0770844548		
14	Aaron L. Flomo	"	0770228051		
15	Esther Konah	"	077594939		
16	Prince Dumbo	"	07748723664		
17	Daniel William	"	0770626857		
18	Blama Barber	"	0770568131		
19	Mamie Dolo	"	0880172528		
20	Wilfred R. Gbarr	Copper Farm	Youth big man	0777821068	
21	Princess E. Walker	"	Member	0779253674	
22	Etta	"	"	0775061300	
23	Mohamed Kelleh	"	Member	0776185969	
24	Marthaline Agill	"	Member	0778766828	
25	Joseph Kulah Jr	"	"	0776623182	

	Name	Community	Position	Phone	Signature
26	Fulton Schenker	Block C	Member	0886069005	Signature
27	Lis W. Addy	Block B	Member	0770200025	L.W. Addy
28	John S. Hollie	Block A	Member	0880529073	J.S. H.
29	Veronica Gurley	Block B	Member	0770249243	V. Gurley
30	Grace Kluh	Block C	Member	0776037668	Grace Kluh
31	Patricia King	Block C	member	0886712211	P. King
32	AMadou Cooper	Cooper farm	Member	0770332989	AMadou
33	T. Olanzo Alford	Cooper farm	Member	0775096466	T. Olanzo
34	Sarah Pennie	Cooper farm	Member	0776968996	Sarah Pennie
35	Dennis Stull	Cooper farm	Member	0775-275995	Dennis
36	Daniel D. Wilson	Cooper farm	Member	0886629812	Daniel D. Wilson
37	Darius	Block		0775486063	Darius
38	Sandra V. Labell	Tamba Village New Road	Member	0776408080	Sandra
39	Thomas Yoh	Cooper farm	member	0775204234	Thomas
40	Elizabeth Joe	Block A	member	0770662970	Elizabeth
41	Peusee Ruffin	Cooper farm	Member	0776926812	Peusee

	Full Name	Community	Position	Contact	Signature
42	Richard Bracewell	Block-E	Youth Chair	0777934000	Richard
43	TERAY R. C. B. S. D.	Block-E		0778789849	TERAY
44	Prince Den	Block C		0778607582	Prince
45	Annie Ekpa	Block C	"	—	Annie
46	Cynthia Kluh	Block B	member	0777189544	Cynthia
47	Yassah Bolo	Block B	member	—	YB
48	Satu	Lamin Pa		0779099986	Satu
49	Daniel / D. Wilson	Cooper farm		0776803061	Daniel
50	Margaret Lowham	Cooper farm	Advisor	0777112422	Margaret
51	Annie Gaye	Cooper farm	Member	—	AG
52	Burphy Seabrook	Block B	Member	0777944609	Burphy
53	ALPHA SOE			077084518	ALPHA
54	Abe K. G. P.			0771145775	Abe
55	Mary Kluh	Cooper farm		—	Mary
56	Thomas M. Jalla	Cooper farm	Acting Chair / B. C.	0886896382	Thomas
57					

	Name	Position	Community	Number	Signature
58	Morris Wesley	Atty B		0770917771	<i>Morris</i>
59	Ronald L Harris	Sec "C"		0886924373	<i>R Harris</i>
60	Alphonso Jackson	Chairman		025626446	<i>Alphonso</i>
61	Emmanuel Doe			0776424452	
62	James Kallie			0776827150	
63	Ebenzee Payne			0880824305	
64	Joseph K. Veselce			0777768610	
65	Flora Lee Telee			0880642826	
66	Josephus Barker			0	
67	Patience Anderson	NEA	LEC	0775313915	<i>Patience</i>
68	Dave Saah Soule	NGSSA	LEC	0778965898	<i>Dave</i>



Liberia Electricity Corporation
Stakeholder Consultation (Affected Communities)
Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP)



Name of Community: Slipway
Venue: Town Hall / School Bldg

Date: Oct. 17, 2020
Time: 10:00am

Attendance

No	Name	Community	Position	Phone	E-mail
1	Mary G. Kior	Slipway		0776262715	mk
2	Rufus Tomah	Slipway	MEMBER	0776422537	Sammyfustoni@outlook.com
3	Promise Barry	Slipway		078778315	PR
4	Tyhe Kete	Slipway		0778090659	J.R
5	Emmanuel K. Bign	Slipway	Resident	0770169147	nememkerb@go709@gmail.com
6	Bendu	Sirjon		0770176163	
7	Oletha Gid	Sirjon		0886115447	
8	Shilley Kanneh	Sirjon		0778742112	
9	Robert Jannet	Slipway		0776436428	

Present at the meeting from LEC, were: Dave Soure, and
Patience Anwaiborn

10	Reuben Roberts	Slipway	0776625431		
11	Josephine Koll	Slipway	0886 47 21 25		
12	Roseth Klison	Slipway	0770 33 15 49		
13	Josephine-miller	Slipway	0770439405		
14	Phen J. Freeman	Slipway	0776 34 78 06		
15	Mamie Nagbe	Slipway	0776 76 19 30		
16	Joyce J. Davies	Slipway	0888 44 85 79		
17	Richard R. Obu		0777 58 45 31		
18	Pam Tim	Slipway	0776 28 81 19		
19	Annie B. Davis	LC	0770 13 50 23		
20	Folke S. Sika	II	0777 24 27 26		
21	Amos K. Sika		0777 85 76 76		
22	Agnes P. Davis	II	0776 89 93 42		
23	Jeremiah O. Brown		0776 51 45 09 / 0886 54 60 62		
24	Isaac Wallace	Slipway	0778 86 16 09		
25	Fallah M. Kanda		- 0775 97 66 84		

26	Isaac KATH	SLIPWAY	0776623819	0886123819	
27	John Schorber	11	0777025776	0886843584	
28	James T. Boye	11	0770-767-24	0886-547-573	
29	Anthony X. George	11	0776456359	0886240557	
30	Kabir Kketha	11	0770263379	0886791342	
31	Abraham Vang	11	0776-342658	0881028365	
32	Benjamin AB. Merson	11	0770189071	0777338870	
33	Moses Attoh	11	0777725706	0886715706	
34	Koffa Jlamutee	11	077578718	0779053542	
35	Mason Bulley	11	0886207690		
36	Mercy Natt	11	0777005027		
37	Emmanuel Nkwesi	11	0770602418		
38	Mohammed Sheriff	11	0777808012		
39	Hauwa Kromah	11	0777663355		
40	Mike P. Mose	11	0776113584		
41	John Braccardi	11	0775360004		

42	TUNNEY KEMWAY	11	MEMBER	0777583633	tonneykemway@gmail.com
43	Charles Oank	11		0770935360	
44	Daniel G. Toe	11	MEMBER	0776035817	
45	Th. H. Red Nyan	11		0886830506	Amielthor@gmail.com
46	Tina NEEBOY	11		077679622	
47	Sayee Kageh	11		0778636348	
48	James K. Sireg	11	A. S. G	0770537706	SayeeKageh88@gmail.com
49	Ekeagor D. Dayigor	Slipway	Secretary General	0776365863	JamesSireg@gmail.com
50	Lazara Samu	Slipway	Chairman	0770664191	dayigordionas@gmail.com
51	George Mark	11	Resident	0775731190	
52	Watu Saefte	11	11	0777024880	
53	Amabufotima	11	11	0880432722	
54	Timothy O. Tobi	11	Youth Chairman	0776990353	
55	Madammed BAH	11	member	0777089411	Shun
56	Dave Saah Soule	LEC	NGSSA	0776824336	
57				0770965848	David



Liberia Electricity Corporation
Stakeholder Consultation (Affected Communities)
Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP)



Name of Community: Klein Town

Venue: Klein Town, Town Square

Date: Oct. 16, 2020

Time: 10:00 am

Attendance

No	Name	Community	Position	Phone	E-mail
1	Barnabas Tapp	Klein Town	Security chair	077868342	tappbarnabas@gmail.com
2	Martha Fairbairn	Klein Town			martha.tapp
3	Mary Kwame	Klein Town			MARY KWAME
4	Dita Ganne	Klein Town	Block Chair	0775625492	Dita
5	David X. Johnson	"	Block A Chair	077695599	DIZZ270
6	James Gbushan	"	Community member	0775544959	-
7	James Miller	"	Community member	0776558226	-
8	Terry Garay	"	Block D Zone 2	0774922961	Terry
9	Emmanuel Sambo	Klein Town	Block A Z1	077410626	Emmanuel

Present at the meeting from LEC, were: Dave Soure, and
Patience Anwarh

10	Anthony Wendo Wendo			0778538348	Anthony
11	Edwin M. Taha	Klein Town	Block A Zone 3	0776196187	Edwin
12	John Ballow Jr			0775198561	John
13	Grace Lujay	Klein Town	Block A Chair	0777225034	Grace
14	Beatrice C. Melay	"	Block C	0770227015	B. Melay
15	Rebecca G. Ganne	"	"	0770791699	Rebecca
16	John C. M. M. M. M.	Klein Town	Block C	0776382186	John
17	Mrs. J. J. J. J.	Klein Town	Block A	0770569458	Mrs. J.
18	Dorothy S. Collins	"	"	0770917236	Collins
19	Sherry S. S. S.	Klein Town	A	0776433536	Sherry
20	Joseph Philip	"	A	0776534108	Joseph
21	Patrick S. S.	"	D	077769169	Patrick
22	Joseph B. B.	"	D	077890099	Joseph
23	Prince K. K.	"	B.	077811676	Prince
24	James K. K.	"	A	0770067289	James
25	Makula D. D.	"	A	0770108864	Makula

26	Confidence Ro	Block A	0777433145	Chud
27	Timothy Kennedy	11 A	0770-392447	
28	Wellington Daniels	11 A	077033144	
29	Esther Kerkula	11 A	0776767472	
30	Ruth Kolie	11 A		
31	Lobbe Kolie	11 A	0777280871	
32	John Morris	11 A	0880040341	
33	Marvin Gehrig	11 A	077787808	
34	Jerome K. A. Hou	11 A	0770453928	
35	George Kolie	11 B	07706393428	
36	Bornach	11 A	0777365540	
37	Raney	11 A	0881635434	
38	Patrick Belch	11 A	0770199732	P.6
39	Johnson	11 A	0880059188	
40	Frederick petu	11 A	077641812	
41				

42	Wang Nioche	0775358562	-11	
43	Josiah Fayrah	077964406	Block B	
44	Ben Guleh Kleinblum	077025064	Block A	
45	Naomi King Kleinblum	Block B	077704407	
46	mamavou Dain	11 Block A	0775610022	
47	Kolu Lee Kleinblum	Block A	0776315886	
48	Charlotte Bayer Kleinblum		0775684472	
49	Roland B. Brown	11 Block B	0778441187	
50	James Z. Dene Kleinblum	Block-B	0777-29563	
51	David matthew	Block B	088694483	Born
52	Jackeline Gish	11 Block B	077627669	
53	Lydia Johnson	11 Block A	0777100292	Johnson
54	Esther Jaibilia	11 Block A	077843238	Jaibilia
55	Ruth N. Barton	11 Block B	0886900974	Ruth N B
56	Ornella T. Weller	11 Block B	0775976440	
57	Abraham Stoh	11 Block A	077075463	
	Henry Muth	11 Block D	0777651357	

Alfonso Ponce	Weintown	Block A	0778682629	
52 Robert Konyo	11	Block A	0776687779	
53 Jonathan King	Weintown	Block D	0777416891	
54 Elijah B. Sime	Weintown	Block D	0886588647	
55 Thomas T. Sime	Weintown	Block chairman	0770678566	
56 A. Sime	Tupelo	Weintown Block A	0776928766	A Sime Tupelo
57 Sonie B. Sime	Weintown	Block A	088-771-342	ES
58 Emmanuel M. Sime	Weintown	Block A	088-586-773	PP &
59 Orlan Sime	Weintown	Block D	0886474277	Dim
60 Zannah Toe	Weintown	Block D	077939844	PK
61 Mania Mubali	Weintown	Block A	0886998707	
62 Isaac D. Mubali	Weintown	Block A	0778556375	Chadler
63 David G. Mubali	Weintown	Block A	0775431715	Chadler
64 Hannah K. Mubali	Weintown	Block A	0770218125	Hand
65 Joseph S. Mubali	Weintown	11 A	0776891846	J.S. Kammah
66 Ruth Mubali	Weintown	Block C	0777542430	Hand
Prince Jefferson	Weintown	Block A	0776516933	Hand

D.

67 Edmund K. Mubali	Weintown	member	0776412583	Hand
68 Jackson Quaker	Weintown	BA	0775411740	Hand
69 L. Gentry	Weintown	Block A	0778907751	
70 Elijah F. Mubali	Weintown	B-A	0775955482	Hand
71 Lincoln Jacobs	Weintown	Block A	0886480695	
72 Violet Nyenege	Weintown	Block D		
73 Joseph Mendy	Weintown	Block A	0776185810	
74 Esther Z. Quake		B-A	077720810	
75 Patricia Mark		B-A	0776562767	
76 Chris Dweh			0777788700	
77 Eldyn Benson		B-A	0777788700	0886331976
78 Henry S. Biala, Jr.		11	0770394691	
79 Jerry Simpson		B-A		

Annex 10: photos of meetings under LESSAP 1







Annex 11: COVID-19 Safety and Health Protocol

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, the Government of Liberia mandated safety and health measures that affected the way LESSAP-1 engaged with communities and other stakeholders to manage E&S risks. Since engagement is at the core of this Project's Performance Standards, Key safety and health protocols to consider for stakeholder engagement process to support communication and sharing of information included the following:

- No more than 50 participants in the same space/venue during meetings.
- Consider replacing face-to-face meetings with virtual meeting, if applicable.
- Consider if the meetings can be scaled down so that fewer people can attend.
- Hold meetings in open space or outside whenever possible.
- Ensure temperature checks of participants before the start of meetings (anyone with a temperature above 37.5 must be repeated two (2) times for more accurate result. If reading still shows above 37.5 must not be allowed to attend the meeting and should seek medical

advice).

- Ensure compulsory use of face mask by everyone during meeting.
- Provide hand washing buckets during the meetings.
- All participants must avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Ensure that every participant practices frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water while at the meeting.
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers during the meetings, and ensure that participants practice good hygiene.
- Ensure that anyone that appears unwell or who has COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath) does not attend the meetings.
- Ensure that meeting site/venue is regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- Practice social distancing by maintaining at least 1.5 meters distance between meeting participants.
- Ensure continuous COVID-19 health and safety risk awareness.
- Emergency healthcare provider number(s) must be displayed during meetings for any emergency case.
- Collect and record daily attendance of everyone during meetings for contact tracing in event of suspected case.
- Safeguard team members conducting meetings should wear gloves and face mask.

In accordance with the above guidelines and national health protocols, community meetings were held with adherence to safety procedures. In most meetings, face masks were distributed to participants whereas in others social distancing was observed. Also Focus Group Discussion (FGD) meetings were held with community leaders (Youth Groups, Head of Women Organization, Zonal/Town Chief, etc.) between 10-25 participants, which was in keeping with COVID-19 prevention protocols.

Annex 12: Photos of Meetings with National Stakeholders under LESSAP 2



Presentation by REA Social Development Specialist during the event



The Event participants posed for picture



LEC Environmental Specialist during Q&A session

Annex 13: Sample Complaints Form

Name of Community/Hospital (Grievance Office): _____

Grievance Number: _____

1.	Date grievance/complaint was brought	
2.	How complain/grievance was brought? a. written b. oral c. through GRM focal point, d. phone calls directly to LEC	e. Other (Specify)
3.	Name of complainant/aggrieved person	
4.	Phone no. of complainant	
5.	Community/Address of complainant	
6.	Gender of complainant/aggrieved person	1. Male 2. Female
7.	ID of complainant/aggrieved person (PAP ID #)	
8.	Name of community representative present	
9.	<u>Nature of Grievance/Complaint:</u> a. Unfair Compensation b. Disputed Ownership of Property c. Lack of Consultation d. Property Affected by Project Activities	e. Other (Specify):
10.	Summary of Discussion:	
11.	Date of commencement of investigation	
12.	Was complainant present?	1. Yes 2. No
13.	Was field verification of grievance/ complaint conducted?	1. Yes 2. No

14.	Findings of field verification/complaint:	
15.	Summary of decision taken:	
16.	Was agreement reached?	1. Yes 2. No
17.	If yes, please detail agreement:	
18.	If no, please detail disagreement:	
19.	Please state other issues raised, if any:	

20.	Signed: investigator (community leader/LEC/RREA)	
21.	Signed: complainant	
22.	Signed: independent observer (witness)	
23.	Date investigation was concluded	



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/15/2024 | Report No: ESRSA03507

For Official Use Only

**I. BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Liberia	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	P180498	
Project Name	Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening And Access Project (lessap) Phase II		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Energy & Extractives	Investment Project Financing	5/27/2024	6/21/2024
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost
		5/22/2024	35,700,000

Proposed Development Objective

The PDO is to expand the access to electricity services, and enhance the operational performance of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

[Description imported from the PAD Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]

The investments proposed under the second phase of the LESSAP MPA will help address the poor operational and commercial performance of LEC leading to a financial turnaround of LEC as well as the low access to electricity to allow for achieving universal access to electricity within a reasonable timeframe. These include rehabilitation and expansion of the electricity infrastructure and systems, enhancement of LEC financial performance, off-grid electrification of households and public facilities and stimulation of productive uses in rural areas. The second phase will have the following components:

Component 1: Rehabilitation and Expansion of Electricity Infrastructure and Systems and Enhancement of LEC Revenue Protection: This will expand the supply and installation of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System initiated under the first phase the MPA to ensure oversight, proactive network problem detection and resolution, adequate network reliability and requisition of required power quality data for real time operational



decision. The component will also support the LEC Revenue Protection Program which will include various activities: (i) Enhance the installation of an advanced-metering infrastructure (AMI) platform under the first phase to include the connection and monitoring of large commercial customers via Meter Data Management (MDM), ensuring accurate measurement of their consumption and prevent tampering with metering systems; (ii) Procurement of 50,000 prepayment meters for households that will support the replacement of damaged meters, new connections and regularization of illegal connections; (iii) Enhancements to the LEC Integrated Management System through the addition of a Geographic Information System (GIS), a Field Service Management System (FSMS), installation of a mobile add-on to the Enterprise Asset Management module and the implementation of the Asset and Customers Mapping Survey (ACMS) for LEC to have accurate information at the point of sale of electricity due to the outdated and inaccurate customer database.

Component 2: Off-grid Electrification of Households, Public Facilities, and Stimulation of Productive Uses in Rural Areas: This component will scale up the activities under the first phase off-grid electrification component with a focus on mobilizing private capital. This will include electrification of public facilities in rural areas through provision of Solar PV services to selected health facilities to enhance the delivery of healthcare services and improve their resilience, as well as electrification of pilot education facilities. The project will initiate with identification of education facilities, conduct energy surveys for categorization of sites and build a standardized, modular approach similar to the design of health facilities electrification implemented under the first phase of MPA. The project will also scale up deployment of productive use enterprises and solar home systems with about 200,000 solar home systems distributed to residential end-users, by injection of subsidies through Results-based-Financing, to ensure affordability of solar home systems for households in vulnerable communities and provide an enabling environment for strengthening the distribution network of local companies. The second phase of the MPA would also benefit from an online RBF platform currently under implementation under the first phase which automates the claiming processes and improves efficiency for deployment of the RBF subsidies. The project will support the design and implementation of privately delivered mini grids to dispersed communities. The first phase has already conducted detailed pre-feasibility assessments of 47 sites and conducted financial viability of each site to calculate subsidy levels. The pilot will be used to demonstrate the technical and commercial viability of mini-grid development in Liberia and its attractiveness to the private sector.

Component 3: Technical Assistance, training and capacity building of sector institutions and project implementation support: This component will cover the cost of strengthening the capacity of LEC Project Management Team (PMT) to manage and monitor implementation activities. It will include financing the cost of specialized consultants (technical, financial, procurement, audit, safeguards, etc.) and project staff to support the PMT, the preparation of technical design and safeguards documents, community engagement and sensitization programs, working on inclusivity and implementation of gender actions plans amongst others.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

[Description of key features relevant to the operation's environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 10,000]

The grid densification component of the project will be executed in Greater Monrovia, located in Montserrado County, while, the off-grid elements are set to benefit rural public facilities across the 15 counties, including support for the design and implementation of privately delivered mini grids for dispersed communities in rural areas.

Montserrado County, which houses the nation's capital, Monrovia, is the most populous county, with an estimated 1,735,000, residents, accounting for roughly 33.5% of the national population (2024). The project's first two



components aim to bolster the upgrading and rehabilitation of the distribution network, including medium and low voltage lines, load break switches, transformers, and off-grid solar electrification. The identification of specific locations for the distribution network and off-grid solar electrification initiatives were done under LESSAP's Phase I. Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) tools such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), developed under LESSAP I will be updated adopted and disclosed by effectiveness. These tools will guide the environmental and social screening and the preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for proposed additional sites for MV lines under Phase II. Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) are likely to be developed to address land acquisition, land use restrictions, and involuntary resettlement concerns for mini grade subproject activities. .

The project's activities span several counties, some of which contain protected natural areas. However, construction and rehabilitation efforts will primarily occur in urban settings, minimizing the likelihood of natural resource disturbances. Social risks associated with the project include unemployment, the potential exclusion of Below Poverty Line (BPL) individuals from accessing the electricity provided, labor influx, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Sexual Harassment (SH), and possible, but not likely, land acquisition, land use restrictions, and involuntary resettlement.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description of Borrower's capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 10,000]

The Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP) Phase II involves the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) which are implementing ongoing Bank-funded projects, including; LESSAP, Liberia Renewable Energy Access Project (LIRENAP), the Regional Emergency Solar Power Intervention Project (RESPITE), and the completed Liberia Accelerated Electricity Expansion Project (LACEEP). Both LEC and RREA maintain internal units and dedicated environmental and social safeguards staff for managing and monitoring environmental and social impacts of the projects. The ESMU at LEC has about six E&S development officers led by an Environmental Specialist and together with a Social and Gender Specialist. The long-serving safeguards staff of LESSAP and LIRENAP have benefited from skills enhancement on Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS), Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and occupational health and Safety (OHS) trainings to manage safeguards risks. The staff at both PIUs have completed fundamental training on ESF and continue to attend regular workshops and training organized by the World Bank.

The PMU of RREA is led by a project coordinator and project engineers, procurement specialists, and safeguard specialists. The RREA's finance director provides financial management of the project, while the procurement director has enhanced oversight of all procurement activities. To enhance the capacity in implementation and knowledge in ESF/ESS, the staff involved in E&S works will be regularly trained by tailor-made training for this group of staff, keeping the project's needs in mind to update proficiency and discuss the challenges in E&S implementation. A training manual identifying the needs shall be developed, including the timeline, training needs, type of training, and categories of participating staff. The requirements for training and manual development will be included in the updated Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).



II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]

LESSAP II's components 1 & 2 will support ongoing upgrading and rehabilitation of the distribution network, including medium and low voltage lines, installation of new transformers, support to the design and implementation of privately delivered mini grids for dispersed communities in rural areas and off-grid solar electrification that are more beneficial to the public. However, these activities are likely to have negative impacts on the environment. The proposed distribution line will involve planting of wood poles (footprint is $\leq 0.6\text{m}$) along the existing ROW of avenues, etc. Apart from occasional tree brushings/trimmings/cuttings during construction and operation, there are hardly negative E&S impacts encountered in such distribution lines. Hence, the scope and nature of the support to the design and implementation of the privately owned mini-grid for dispersed communities aren't known at this stage, as such, the impacts of distribution network construction and off-grid solar electrification and the mini-grid are mostly positive. The potential environmental impacts during the construction phase will include vegetation clearing, noise pollution from heavy vehicles, soil erosion from excavations for wood pole planting and mini-grid foundation works, fugitive dust and other emissions, and various wastes such as metal, plastic, electronic wastes (E-waste) and potential for hazardous materials and oil spills associated with heavy vehicle operation and fueling activities, among others that are typical to medium-scale electrical installation works which will be handled and disposed of according to national requirements and GIIP. The Borrower will update, disclose and adopt the ESMF and RPF prepared under Phase I for Phase II by effectiveness, which will then guide the preparation of subsequent E&S screening and ESMPs according to ESF, GIIP, and WB EHS Guidelines. The Borrower is required to update and adopt the SEP prepared under Phase I, and SEA/SH Action Plan by appraisal. The Existing ESCP for Phase I will be updated for Phase II to address the environmental and social obligations of the borrower as by the relevant ESSs and national regulations. HWMPs and E-waste plans will be prepared as part of ESMP in line with the Bank's EHS Guidelines and the Environment Protection Management Law of Liberia (2003). The Borrower has a relevant legal framework for addressing E&S risks and impacts. The project-implementing agencies have experience implementing World Bank-funded projects and are familiar with the Bank's safeguard policies and ESF, under which this project is being prepared. Based on the nature of potentially adverse environmental impacts that are likely to be site-specific, and manageable with appropriate mitigation measures in place, and the borrower's capacity to implement mitigation measures, the project environmental risk is assessed and rated as moderate and may change by appraisal if the scope and nature of the mini-grid is made clearer.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]

The project social impacts will enhance the quality of individual and community life, keep health and education facilities better and benefit the common Liberian, however, the project intervention may increase the risks of corruption during intensification of energy connections, widen discrimination between consumers and non-



consumers, increase the cost of education and health facilities, and may exclude the most poor, poor and vulnerable. The power distribution line will involve erection of wooden poles ($\leq 0.6\text{sqm}$ without civil works) within unused space of ROW of existing community roads, streets, avenues or open/unused community land. Thus, no significant negative socio-economic impacts due to involuntary resettlements are anticipated, however, sub-component 2C: private sector led mini grid development may trigger ESS 5 for land acquisition, restriction on the land use and involuntary resettlement. ESS 08 for risks and impacts related to cultural heritage may also be triggered for the project. The project activities under components 1 and 2 may have the potential to expose the public/communities to health and safety risks and hazards. These activities include, grid extension works with the potential to expose the public to electrical hazards, and the use of batteries containing hazardous substances that need to be disposed every three years etc. Electrocutation and electromagnetic interference from distribution network and substations might also pose community health and safety risk. However, No significant negative impacts on the health, safety and well-being of workers are anticipated. The outputs of community consultations and engagements have shown positive response for the project. Component 3 will further support intensive community engagement and sensitization, enhance efforts for social inclusion and resources for Gender action plan (GAP) implementation. The GAP is prepared under LESSAP Phase I to enhance opportunities for women and girls.

A.3 Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) Risk Rating

Substantial

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 8,000]

The Liberia country context of high incidences of SEA/SH cases, movement of labor into the project affected/beneficiary communities and its proximity with the local communities, and their behavior at workplace could expose the poor and most vulnerable to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in the poverty stricken area. In addition, the project communities' aspiration of getting quick power connectivity, installation of new meter or replacement of the damaged meter or regularization of illegal connection may add to the trouble and force them to become more vulnerable to the GBV/SEA/SH incidences. To manage the SEA/SH/GBV related risks, the PIU is recruiting a GBV/SEA/SH consultant and service provider NGO to support the portfolio in a better ways and manage the SEA/SH risks and enhance social inclusion and women participation in the project and avail more benefits. The LESSAP Phase I has prepared GBV Action plan and it may be updated and used under LESSAP-2. The SEA/SH risks assessment tool, feedback from the local communities and review of the local situation conclude the SEA/SH risks substantial

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

The activities under components 1 & 2 are likely to have negative impacts on the project environment. Components 1 and 2 will upscale upgrading and rehabilitation of the distribution network (MV and LV lines, Load Break Switches, transformers, etc.) and solar home system, including support Support to the design and implementation of privately delivered mini grids for dispersed communities in rural areas. The potential environmental impacts during the construction phase will include noise pollution from heavy vehicle, soil erosion from excavations for wood pole



planting, fugitive dust and other emissions, and various wastes such as electronic, metal, plastic, electronic wastes (E-waste) and potential for hazardous materials and oil spills associated with heavy equipment operation and fuelling activities, among others that are typical to medium-scale electrical installation works which will be handled and disposed of according to national requirements and GIIP. HWMPs and E-wastes plan will be prepared as part of ESMP in line with the Bank EHS Guidelines and the Environment Protection Management Law of Liberia (2003).

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

All non-technical workers shall be hired from the local communities and project area. The induction training shall be conducted before start of the work. The local worker will understand and respect the social norms and practices and maintain dignified behaviours. The LESSAP's LMP will be updated in provision of the Descent Work Act of Liberia (2015) and other relevant laws and regulations of Liberia after thoroughly reviewing the country system and the LMP shall be disclosed prior to effectiveness of the project. The workers shall sign code of conduct before joining the work for project.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS3 is relevant for the project regarding energy and water use, air pollution and noise impacts, and construction waste, during construction phases, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals and waste, and the disposal of end-of-life batteries containing hazardous materials during the operation phase.

During the rehabilitation and operation phase, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals used in transformers and substations, such as mineral insulating oils, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) and disposal of faulty meters collected as per subcomponent 1b might also pose environmental risks as well as used batteries that are to be generated during operation of the mini-grid under subcomponent 2c. Where wood poles are used for distribution networks, the use of chemicals for wood preservation and disposal of used poles might pose environmental, health and safety (EHS) risks. A mitigation hierarchy will be applied. The ESMF will be updated by effectiveness.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS4 is relevant for the project and associated with electrical installation works and other activities. Several activities under components 1 and 2 have the potential to expose the public to health and safety risks and hazards. These activities include, grid extension works with the potential to expose the public to electrical hazards, and the use of batteries containing hazardous substances that need to be disposed every three years etc. Electrocution and electromagnetic interference from distribution network and substations might also pose community health and safety risk. The assessment under ESS1 will further elaborate on these risks and provide appropriate mitigation measures. The implementing entities will institute a program that will seek to ensure the communities' safety and protection from hazards associated with the Project. During preparation, relevant national practices will be reviewed against the requirements of ESS4 and the World Bank's applicable EHS Guidelines.



ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

The project sub-components shall not require land or restrict any land use or involve any involuntary resettlement. The proposed off-grid electrification of household and public facilities shall use their own land to install the related infrastructures and no additional land will be required, however sub component 2C private sector led mini grid development may require minimal land so, ESS5 is currently not relevant/triggered, however the LESSAP phase I RPF shall be updated and disclosed prior to effectiveness, if required to guide future intervention.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS 6 is not considered relevant to the project at this time as none of the project components will occur in natural habitats or in areas with biodiversity. The project components will be developed within urban areas or small towns.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

Not applicable

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

In the ESMP, a chance find provision may be considered and triggered

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

Not currently relevant

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

The borrower is identifying and analyzing the stakeholders and also engaging with the various stakeholders to obtain their feedbacks, observations and comments before finalizing engagement plan. Component 3 of the project will support further engagement with the community & stakeholders and sensitization. The finalized SEP will be disclosed prior to appraisal and decision meeting on the project.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply



OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

In Part

[Explanation including areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered - Max. Character limit 10,000]

The project as a moderate risk project, may in part, rely on the Borrower's Framework. Before considering the borrower's framework, all relevant environmental and social laws, policies, regulations and E&S framework shall be thoroughly assessed and reviewed. After assessment and gap analysis, the E&S team shall advise on the relevant instruments ESSs and its update. The assessment report and updated instruments shall be disclosed and implemented before the effectiveness of the project and then E&S team shall continuously monitor the project for adaptive E&S risks management as required.

Use of Common Approach

No

[Explanation including list of financing partners – Max. character limit 4,000]

Not applicable

B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Appraisal Stage PID and PAD – Max. character limit 10,000]

The environmental impacts during the construction phase will include construction site waste generation, soil erosion and sediment from excavation activities, site preparation activities, fugitive dust and other emissions (e.g., from vehicle traffic, and materials stockpiles), and noise from movement of equipment and truck traffic, potential for hazardous materials and oil spills associated with heavy equipment operation and fueling activities, among others that are typical to medium-scale electrical installation works.

During the construction/rehabilitation and operation phase, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals used in transformers such as mineral insulating oils, disposal of faulty meters collected as per subcomponent 1b might also pose environmental risks and the construction of mini-grid as per subcomponent 2c. Where wood poles are used for distribution networks, the use of chemicals for wood preservation and disposal of used poles might pose environmental, health, and safety risks. There are also potential health and safety risks and hazards to workers (e.g., working at heights, close to live power lines, electric and magnetic fields, etc.), as well as to the community. Many of these risks and impacts are site-specific and manageable with appropriate mitigation measures.

Component 2 includes scale-up support to off-grid solar systems (OGS) under Phase 1, this will include the mounting of the solar modules on rooftops or mount them on poles next to the users' homes or buildings, which will reduce the



fossil fuel-based energy production dependency. While the Battery Storage System for the OGS is not complex and would have a small installation footprint, there are several environmental risks associated with this activity that need to be managed. In particular, potential fire and explosion risks and environmental risks and hazards related to the disposal of end-of-life batteries containing hazardous materials.

Proper disposal or recycling of spent batteries at the end of their life, which is usually 3-5 years, is the main concern. The activities under component 1 will not require involuntary land acquisition, however activities under subcomponent 2c may require land acquisition if the scope and nature of the mini-grid are known: (i) construction of lines for the distribution network (MV and LV) because they are expected to be installed in the existing ROW of the roads; and (ii) the OGS modules are expected to be installed on the roof of buildings or the poles for the streetlights. The initial screening under phase I, indicated that no land will be required since the MV and LV line will be installed along the right of way of existing road and communities. However, it has the potential to temporarily restrict access and disturb economic activities, labour accidents, and facilitate the perpetuation of gender inequalities through unequal employment opportunities for vulnerable groups. The project aims to improve the efficiency of the implementing entity by strengthening and reorganizing management to improve its capacity and reduce commercial loss. Its OGS intervention will lead to improvements in energy resilience and efficiency and the decrease of CO₂ emissions through the integration of more clean electricity from renewable sources. Overall, the project will have significant positive benefits at the household, public, and national levels. Despite positive benefits, there are several potential E&S risks and impacts associated with the project that will need to be mitigated. The locations for installation of MV and LV lines have been concluded and screened under Phase I with manageable risk. Similarly, the specific beneficiary health facilities and schools have been selected under Phase I.

The project interventions will enhance the quality of life. The proposed distribution line will not need to acquire or restrict land use. The unused space of ROW of existing roads, streets, avenues, etc. shall be used for erecting wooden poles and energy distribution using mitigation hierarchy to avoid any impacts on the people or community. Thus, no significant E&S or cultural risks or any negative impacts are anticipated. The initial community consultations and engagements have shown very positive response for the project. Based on the nature of potentially adverse social impacts that are likely to be moderate. The impacts may be site-specific, if any, and manageable with appropriate mitigation measures. No significant negative impacts also anticipated on the health, safety and well-being of workers or project communities or risks on the cultural heritage.

The Borrower shall update, disclose and adopt the ESMF and RPF prepared under Phase I for Phase II by effectiveness, which will then guide the preparation of subsequent E&S screening and ESMPs according to ESF, GIIP, and WB EHS Guidelines. The Borrower is required to update and adopt the SEP prepared under Phase I, and SEA/SH Action Plan. The Existing ESCP for Phase I will be updated for Phase II to address the environmental and social obligations of the borrower as by the relevant ESSs and national regulations.

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required during implementation?

[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project's environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA



documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank including sources of information for the due diligence. - Max. character limit 10,000]

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- Updating and consultation and disclosure of the existing Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) – Before Appraisal;
 - Updating and consultation and disclosure of a existing Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including draft grievance redress mechanism (GRM) - Before Appraisal;
 - Updating and, consultation and disclosure of existing Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Labor Management Procedures (LMP) before by effectiveness.
 - Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):
 - o Institutional arrangements for the management of ESS standards;
 - o Finalize the update of RPF, LMP, and SEP in a timely manner;
 - o Updated Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for construction and operation phases for Components 1, 2, and
 - o Implementation and supervision of SEA/SH Action Plan;
- Prepare E-waste management plan
- o Development and implementation of institutional environmental and social capacity strengthening plan;
 - o Preparation of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Plan and E-waste management plan as stand-alone documents or part of the ESMP both for construction and operation;
 - o ESMP and LMP provisions to be included in the Bidding documents and contracts.

III. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Task Team Leader:	Anna Aghababyan	Title:	Senior Operations Officer
Email:	aaghababyan@worldbank.org		



IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

V. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Anna Aghababyan, Ky Hong Tran
ADM Environmental Specialist:	Aloysius K Kotee
ADM Social Specialist:	Akhilesh Ranjan