

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

NGO Coordination Unit

Quarter One (1) Report

For

Fiscal Year 2024

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1.0. Introduction

The NGO Coordination Unit has the statutory mandate to coordinate, monitor and regulate the activities of NGOs in the Republic of Liberia, ensure that the partnership between the Government of Liberia and Non-Governmental Organizations is enhanced in a way that NGOs' programs and activities are aligned with national development priorities.

The periodic report of NGO activities within the Republic of Liberia complies with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) Act of 2013, Section 21.8 (e), which gives the Department of Economic Management “oversight responsibility of NGO operations in the management of donor funding and the implementation of donor funded projects”. NGOs play a critical role in the development process of Liberia in complementing national development efforts, both national and international NGOs serve as the channels for a significant amount of Liberia's aid flows, including both bilateral and multilateral aid.

The core objectives of NGO activities are coordination, monitoring and regulation. This is intended to ensure that NGO programs are aligned with the Government's developmental agenda. While fostering a sustainable partnership between GOL and NGOs.

The NGO Coordination Unit of the MFDP was established to oversee and regulate the operations of non-governmental organizations within Liberia. The Unit ensures that NGOs adhere to national standards, operate transparently, and contribute effectively to the country's development objectives. The Unit employs an online accreditation platform to streamline the process, making it more efficient and accessible for NGOs.

In the first quarter of 2024, the Unit focused on several key activities to strengthen its oversight and support roles. Accreditation of 33 NGOs was completed through the online platform, a testament to the Unit's commitment to enhancing operational efficiency. Participation in high-level sector reviews and workshops provided the Unit with valuable insights and facilitated better alignment of NGO activities with government priorities.

Additionally, the Unit conducted spot checks on selected NGOs to ensure compliance and verify their activities. Engagements with donor partners such as USAID, SIDA, and JICA, along with local partners like the Liberia Business Registry, underscored the Unit's efforts to foster collaboration and enhance support mechanisms. Despite facing logistical and financial challenges, the Unit remains dedicated to improving its operations and supporting the NGO sector in Liberia.

2.0. Activities of the NGO Unit for the Period Under Review

2.1. Registration of NGOs

The Registration of NGOs is an ongoing process. an important procedure which is relatively time-consuming. However, it is necessary to do a thorough scrutiny and examination to establish the validity and credibility of organizations involved in charitable, not- for profit and development-oriented activities that would ensure socio-economic advancement in a balanced development approach. During the period under review, the NGO Unit accredited a total of **33** NGOs through the Online Registration and Accreditation Platform. Of the **33**, **24** were national NGOs while **9** were International.

2.2. Capacity Building and Training

The NGO Coordination Unit was unable to conduct its regular training on the usage of the NGO online registration and accreditation system and templates due to budgetary constraints. However, several capacity-building initiatives were carried out, including coaching and mentorship sessions, aimed at enhancing NGO partners' ability to apply through the online accreditation system.

2.3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Due to logistical constraints, out of the total of **33** NGOs accredited for this quarter, the Unit conducted spot checks on the offices of **3** NGOs. These visits aimed to ensure regulatory compliance and verify the NGOs' operational activities. The M&E activities revealed that many NGOs are receiving donor funding and implementing projects in the country without a valid accreditation status. This underscores the need for improved monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance and regulatory adherence.

2.4. Partnership and Collaboration

The Unit actively engaged in multiple events and meetings to strengthen partnerships and improve coordination, one such event was the Government of Liberia Sector Performance Portfolio Review, a crucial event for assessing sectoral progress and aligning NGO activities with the government's development objectives. Additionally, representatives from the Unit participated in the sector update workshop for the Government of Liberia Project Dashboard, which provided essential updates on various projects and facilitated better coordination among stakeholders. The Unit also held meetings to strengthen partnerships with donor and local partners, including USAID, SIDA, and JICA (Japan Embassy) and the Liberia Business Registry (LBR). These meetings focused on enhancing support, improving collaboration, and aligning efforts with national development goals, ensuring that NGO activities are well-coordinated and contribute effectively to Liberia's development.

3.0. Summary of Registered NGOs (2022-2024)

NGOs in Liberia are classified into two categories: National NGOs and International NGOs. National NGOs are locally established and operate within Liberia, while International NGOs originate from abroad and extend their operations to Liberia.

3.1. Transition to Online Accreditation

Before 2024, NGO accreditation was conducted through a manual process that encountered several challenges. To address these issues, the government of Liberia through the MFDP decided to digitize the accreditation process to mitigate delays and bottlenecks faced by NGOs. The new online system was launched in August 2022 and underwent testing and demonstrations until the end of 2023. During this period, NGO applications were processed both manually and online to test the new system. At the beginning of 2024, the accreditation process transitioned exclusively to the online platform.

3.2. NGO Registration Data:

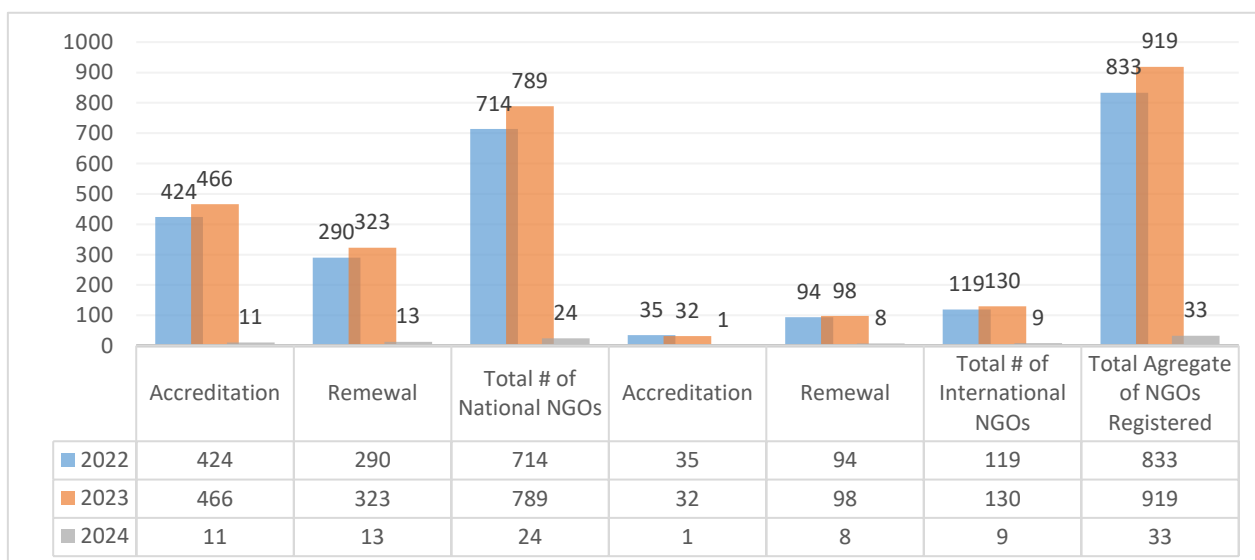
- 2022:** The National NGO database recorded a total of 833 registered NGOs, comprising **714** National NGOs and **119** International NGOs. Within the National NGO category, 424 NGOs were newly accredited, while **290** renewed their accreditation status. In the International NGO category, **35** NGOs were newly accredited, while **95** NGOs renewed their accreditation status.
- 2023:** Between January 2023 and December 2023, the national NGO database recorded **919** NGOs in Liberia, with **789** National NGOs and **130** International NGOs. During this period, a total of **498** NGOs were newly accredited, and **421** renewed their accreditation status. Specifically, within the National NGO category, **466** were accredited, and **323** renewed their status. In the International NGO category, **32** NGOs were accredited, while **98** renewed their accreditation status.
- 2024 (January to June):** The National NGO Database recorded a total of **33** NGOs through its online accreditation platform. Among these, **24** were National NGOs and **9** were International NGOs. In the National NGO category, **11** NGOs were newly accredited, while **13** NGOs renewed their accreditation status. In the International NGO category, **1** NGO was newly accredited, while **8** NGOs renewed their accreditation status. Overall, the total number of newly accredited NGOs for this period was **12**, while **21** NGOs renewed their accreditation.

3.3. Trends and Analysis

The number of NGOs within the national NGO database has fluctuated over the years due to factors such as NGO phasing out, lack of donor funding, and the conclusion of programs. As clearly reported in the analysis, there was a significant increase in the number of NGOs from **714** in 2022 to **919** in 2023, representing an increase of **205** NGOs or **28.7%**. This growth highlights the evolving nature of the NGO landscape.

NGO accreditation in the first quarter of 2024 has been at a very slow pace compare to previous years, this can be attributed mainly to the transition to an online accreditation process and the difficulties NGO applicants faced in navigating the new online registration and accreditation platform. Figure 1 provides a summary analysis of the NGO registration data between 2023 and 2024:

figure 1: Summary of NGOs Registration from 2022-2024



4.0. NGOs' Contribution to Sector

The contributions of NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) in Liberia span various sectors, including healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure development, and social welfare. Here are some key areas where NGOs have made significant impacts:

Healthcare: NGOs have played a crucial role in improving healthcare services across Liberia, particularly after the devastating Ebola and COVID 19 outbreak. Organizations including Partners In Health, SightSavers and Last Miles Health have been involved in providing medical care, building health facilities, and training healthcare workers.

Education: NGOs such as Save the Children and Edify Liberia have been active in promoting education and improving literacy rates among children. They have supported schools, provided educational materials, and conducted teacher training programs.

Infrastructure: NGOs such as Welthungerhilfe have contributed to infrastructure development, especially in rural areas. Their projects interventions include building roads, bridges, and sanitation facilities to improve living conditions and access to basic services.

Energy and Environment: Fauna and Flora International plays a crucial role in promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, advocating for the conservation of natural resources, and encouraging biodiversity conservation.

Social Welfare: NGOs have been involved in social welfare programs, focusing on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly. They provide support through skills training, livelihood programs, and psychosocial support.

Advocacy and Governance: NGOs in Liberia also play a critical role in advocacy for human rights, good governance, and social justice. They work to strengthen civil society, promote transparency, and hold authorities accountable.

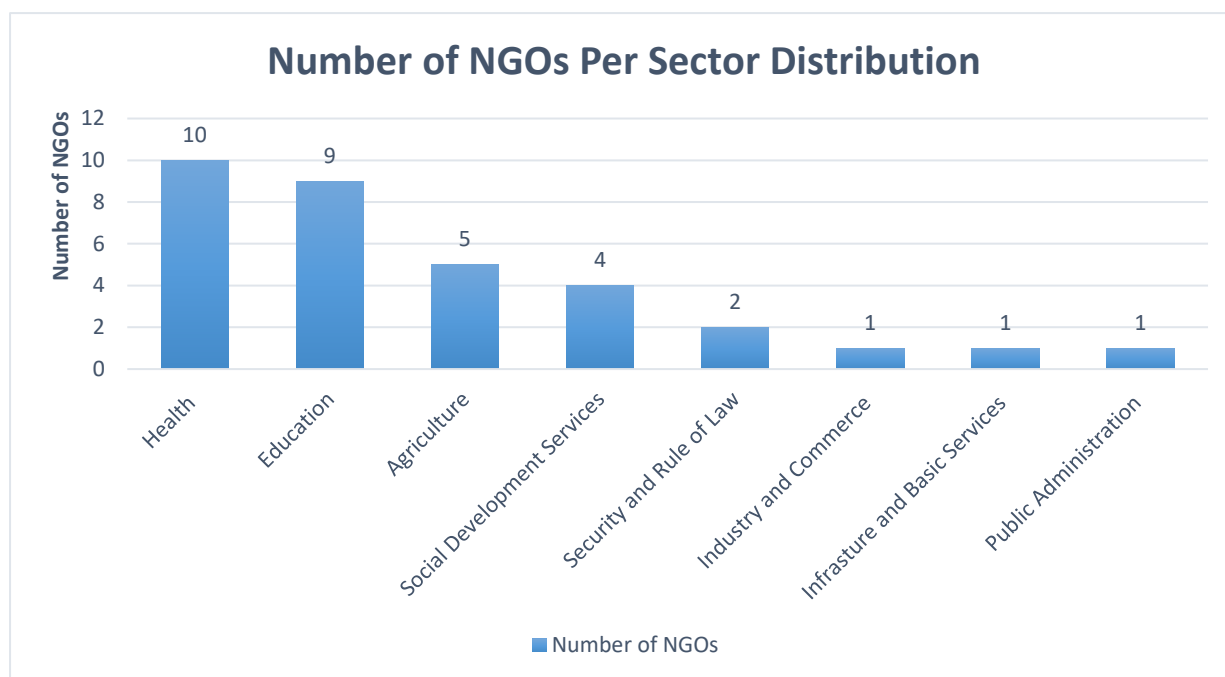
Emergency Response: During natural disasters and humanitarian crises, NGOs have provided emergency relief, including food aid, shelter, and medical assistance.

Agriculture: NGOs often provide training programs to farmers on modern agricultural practices, sustainable farming methods, and efficient use of resources like water and fertilizers. They facilitate the adoption of new agricultural technologies and innovations, such as improved seeds, and organic farming methods; engage in advocacy efforts to influence agricultural policies that support small-scale farmers, improve market access, and promote fair trade practices. NGOs work on community-level projects to enhance food security, improve nutrition, and promote income-generating activities related to agriculture.

Emergency Relief and Resilience: During times of crisis such as natural disasters or conflicts, NGOs provide emergency relief and support to help communities recover and build resilience in the agriculture sector.

Women and Youth Empowerment: Many NGOs focus on empowering women and youth in rural areas by providing them with training, access to resources, and opportunities to participate in agricultural activities.

figure 2: Sectoral Distribution of NGOs for Quarter One 2024



5.0 Challenges

During the period under review, the Unit encountered several challenges, primarily related to budgetary and logistical constraints, which impeded many of its activities. Key challenges include:

- Limited financial resources in supporting its activities, particularly in visiting NGOs' project sites.
- The lack of vehicles and motorbikes to facilitate mobility hinders the ability to conduct routine spot checks and project site visits
- Ensuring effective collaboration among NGOs to avoid duplication of efforts remained a challenge.

6.0. Conclusion and Recommendation

In conclusion, Q1 2024 was a productive quarter for the NGO Coordination Unit, marked by significant achievements and impactful activities. Despite facing challenges, the NGO Coordination Unit made significant progress in accrediting NGOs, participating in key reviews and workshops, conducting oversight activities, and fostering partnerships. The Unit remains committed to improving its operations and addressing the logistical and financial limitations. The following are recommendations going forward:

1. Obtain necessary resources to support logistical needs.
2. Improve the Unit's ability to conduct regular site visits and verification checks.

3. Resume training workshops on the use of the NGO Online Accreditation Platform and accreditation templates.

7.0. ANNIEX

Names of Accredited NGOs for Quarter One

1. UNITY IN CHRIST INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES INC.
2. THE LIBERIAN INSTITUTE FOR GROWING PATRIOTISM
3. OPHELIA WEEKS-
4. FOR EVERY GIRL, INC.
5. FOUNDATION INTERNATIONALE HUMANITAIRE MARIA ROSA, INC.
FOUNDATION INTERNATIONALE
6. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT / WE4SELF
7. SIGHTSAVERS LIBERIA
8. THE GREAT COMMISSION VICTORY MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL
9. MISSION ALLIANCE
10. EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
11. THE DAYLIGHT INC.
12. MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (MOPADA-
LIBERIA)
13. NATIONAL SECURITY ADVOCACY NETWORK OF LIBERIA, INC.
14. SUSTAINABLE PEACE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES (SPDI)
15. BETTER TOGETHER LIBERIA
16. THE HOPE CENTER
17. CHILDREN RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) INC.
18. WELTHUNGERHILFE
19. CONCERN WORLD-WIDE
20. NEW NARRATIVES LIBERIA INCORPORATED
21. LIBERIA PREVENTION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY
22. REBIRTH LIBERIA INCORPORATED
23. NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INST FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, INC
24. LIBERIAN UNITED YOUTH FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND
DEVELOPMENT
25. ABEIN-YUAN (ABLE)
26. THE NETWORK FOR EMPOWERMENT & PROGRESSIVE INITIATIVE, INC.
(NEPI)
27. CARAVAN OF MERCY LIBERIA
28. THE JOSEPH NYUMA BOAKAI FOUNDATION
29. CAPACARE-LIBERIA
30. CENTER FOR STREET CHILDREN EDUCATION
31. INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY / IPA
32. GUSCEMAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.
33. TECHNOLOGY, REAEARCH, INNOVATION FOR BUSINESS AND
EDUCATION (TRIBE)