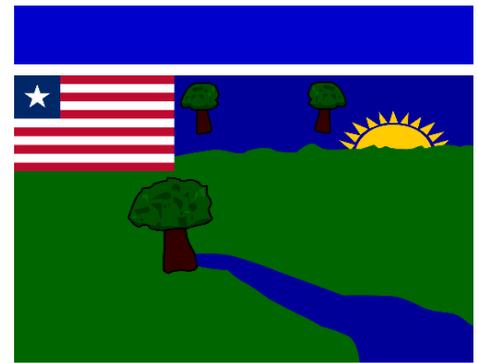


RIVERGEE COUNTY RECONCILIATION AND ACTION PLAN 2024



River Gee County is one of the newest counties which, was founded in 2000 under the National Patriotic Party (NPP) Government led by former President Charles Taylor and has its political seat in Fish Town. The County, which is the third least populated county, was originally a part of Grand Gedeh County. River Gee has evergreen forests and receive high amount of rainfall and is conducive for agriculture purposes both food and cash crops. The local economy is dominated by mining mainly in gold and diamond. On the east of the county is the Cavalla River that forms the border with Ivory Coast.

**Supporting the Government of Liberia
Strategic Roadmap for National Peacebuilding,
Healing, and Reconciliation**

Forward

The River Gee County's five-year reconciliation roadmap and Action Plan (2019-2024) is an essential document intended to support reconciliation at the county level. This document, developed through a participatory process, represents the needs and aspirations of the people of the county in pursuit of peace and sustainable development.

It is my ardent hope that this document, which is aligned to other national instruments and frameworks, like the National Reconciliation Roadmap, Peace-building Plan and Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) will provide the foundation for the development of a national policy on achieving national reconciliation and healing in Liberia.

It is upon this background that I pledge the government's commitment and support in the implementation of this plan, despite competing needs and limited resources. I therefore call upon all local, and national stakeholders, as well as international partners, to embrace this document and use it as the roadmap for the pursuit of county reconciliation which will have a ripple effect at the national level.

Hon. Philip Q. Nyenuh
Superintendent
River Gee County

Acknowledgements

Naymote Partners for Democratic Development is profoundly grateful to the peace-loving and resilient people of River Gee County, especially the participants and key stakeholders who, despite their busy schedules and other obligations, made time to actively participate in all of the three phases of the process that led to the formulation of the five-year Action Plan.

The institution is also thankful to the United Nations System, particularly the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), for the financial resources to carry out this important project that is necessary for the consolidation of peace. The institution is thankful to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, through Liberia Peacebuilding Office, for the partnership and support.

The pivotal role played by the leadership of the county at all levels is much appreciated. Their cooperation led to this successful outcome of the project. Naymote remains grateful to the leadership for their demonstration to transformational leadership of the county.

We recognize the role of our experienced and dynamic facilitator, Atty. Oscar Bloh, who expeditiously facilitated the district and county level forum that led to the development of the plan. We are grateful to him for his level of professionalism.

Naymote expresses gratitude to all members of the County Steering Committee (CSC) who were instrumental and benevolent in planning and organizing all the meetings and dialogues of this intervention.

Last, but not the least, we are internally grateful to our hard-working staff and volunteers who contributed one way or another in planning and implementing the field-based activities. To them, we say, a “Big Thank You.”

List of Acronyms & Abbreviations

CA	County Authority
CAP	County Action Plan
CBA	County Business Association
CDA	County Development Agenda
CDSC	County Development Steering Committee
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSC	County Service Center
CSDF	County Social Development Fund
CSC	County Steering Committee
DDC	District Development Council
GOL	Government of Liberia
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
PAPD	Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development
PBO	Peacebuilding Office
PBSO	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
NAYMOTE	Naymote Partners for Democratic Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNW	United Nations Women

Table of Contents

Forward.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	3
List of Acronyms & Abbreviations.....	4
Table of Contents.....	5
1.0 Executive Summary.....	6-7
2.0 Introduction:	8-9
3.0 Brief Historical and Socio-Context	9
4.0 Methodology.....	10
5.0 Conflict Assessment in Communities (Community Dialogues)	11
5.1 Validation of Findings of the Assessment (District Level Dialogues)	12
5.2 County Level Forum	12-13
6.0 Summary of Analysis of the Issues	15-20
7.0 County Reconciliation Roadmap	21
7.1 County Action Plan.....	22-24
8.0 Recommendation.....	25

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This five-year Peace-building, Reconciliation Roadmap and County Action Plan (CAP) provide a framework for the consolidation of peace, fostering peaceful co-existence, and enhancing development in River Gee County. This document harnesses previous and current peace-building efforts in the county and lays out a detailed strategy to achieve county level reconciliation through inclusive dialogues involving diverse stakeholders. It is aligned with and supports the government's reconciliation framework outlined in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

The five-year CAP was developed through a 'bottom-up' approach involving broad-based consultations in five (5) administrative districts in the county. The first level of generating information was the community dialogues, followed by district level forums that culminated into a county level plenary.

During these consultations, key stakeholders who participated in the dialogues were ordinary citizens, Local Government Authorities (LGA), representing different line ministries, as well as the Coordinator of the County Service Center (CSC). Other local authorities included the Superintendent, District Commissioners, and traditional and religious leaders as well as representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), youth, students and women groups, and media practitioners.

In order to engender local ownership, a County Steering Committee (CSC) was established comprising eight (8) persons headed by the Office of the Superintendent, including representatives for the local government administration, one representative each from the youth, women, civil society, media and people with disabilities groups. The CSC, in consultation with NAYMOTE's County Coordinator planned, organized, and conducted all the consultations for the information gathering processes which led to the development of this document.

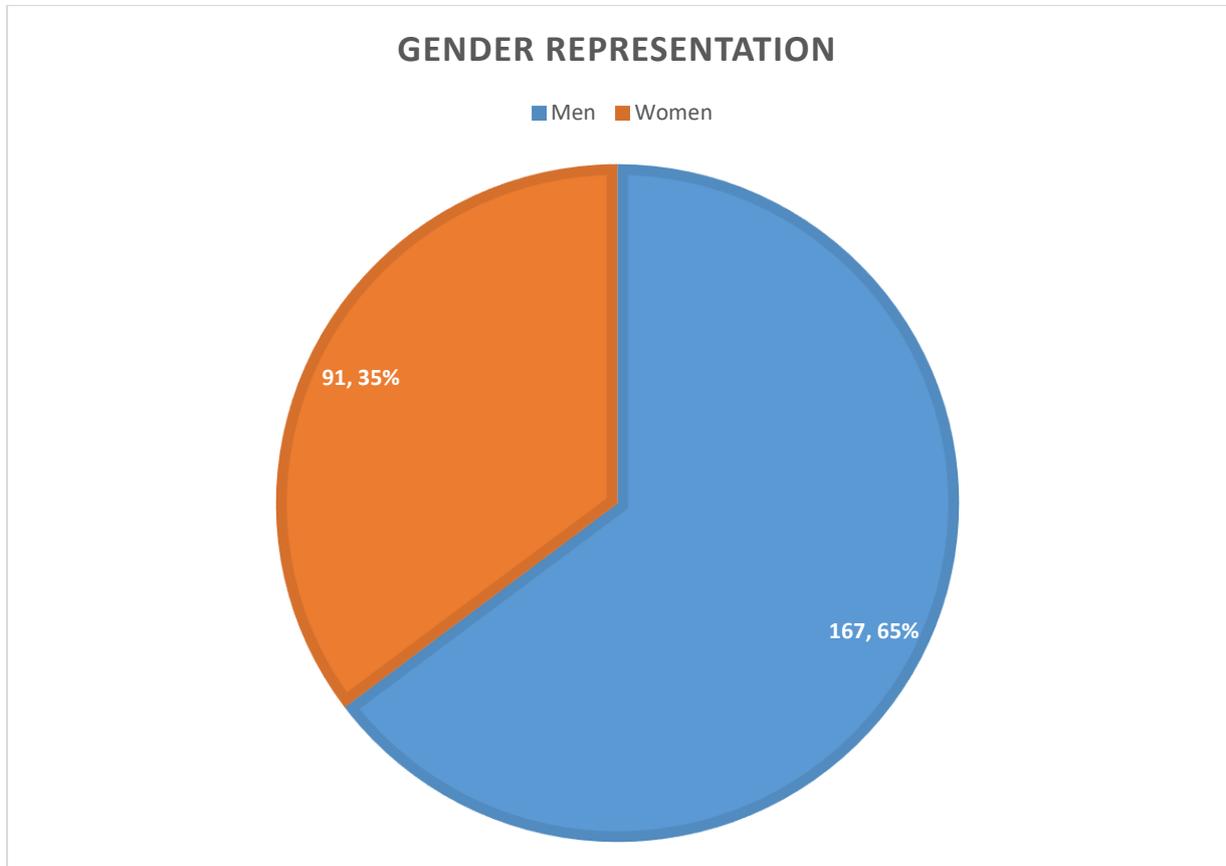
The River Gee county reconciliation roadmap has the following strategic objectives:

- To promote peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding amongst residents of the county irrespective of their religious, social, economic and political affiliation;
- To strengthen local capacities for conflict resolution, peace and reconciliation;
- To promote accountability and transparency in the management of the county resources for its betterment that is and all its residents;
- To increase adequate representation of diverse groups in the country's decision-making processes.

Drivers of conflict in the county were grouped into six (6) categories:

Rule of law/security (limited access to justice); social cohesion (divisions due to intra and inter communal land disputes, violence against women, mismanagement of county’s resources (County Social Development Funds), and the economy (unemployment and steady increase in the prices of basic commodities). The risk of conflict associated with violence against women was placed at medium level and the other categories were rated as high. This rating is an indication of fragility as the county is prone and vulnerable to violence.

The Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement project was designed to be helpful in setting the stage for genuine reconciliation and civic engagement. The project helped to generate information and data that feeds into the development of the County Reconciliation Action Plan 2024 for Rivergeee County, while framing actions which could consolidate peace in Liberia.



2.0 INTRODUCTION

Liberia remains a fragile state, despite the conduct of three successive democratic elections (2005, 2011, and 2017) and substantial international support to the country's recovery and development efforts. The country's fragility is deeply rooted in its history and current experience of social, economic, and political exclusion, inequalities related to resources, including land, mismanagement of state resources, and limited access to justice. These factors combined have reproduced and reinforced divisions in varying forms, thereby undermining social cohesion and making national reconciliation a major priority if the country's development efforts are to be sustained.

The previous government, under President Ellen Sirleaf, recognized that despite gains made in other sectors, her government did not do enough to promote national reconciliation. This recognition was contained in her last annual address delivered on January 23, 2017 to the 53th National Legislature of the Republic of Liberia. She asserted: *"Let me say, straight out, two areas have continued to pose major challenges for our administration: corruption and reconciliation."* She further stated: *"Our country's long struggle for national reconciliation has its genesis in history. A coup d'état and years of civil conflict exacerbated longstanding divides that have left deep wounds. The methods and motivations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) have not helped us to find a way forward to achieve the desired results for reconciliation. Nevertheless, we must continue implementation of the 207 recommendations in the Report, the majority of which have already been implemented. We are a small country, with relationships that cross the divide, and this has enabled us to remain united as a nation. Never must we forget that in union we are strong, and our success is assured. Therefore, we must all do more – I must do more – to heal these wounds, and do so this year, by implementing the Strategic Roadmap which has been formulated for this purpose. I believe that it will serve our nation well to take lessons from the experience of other countries by emphasizing restorative rather than retributive justice¹."*

This statement of admittance was a demonstration of the challenge the country was facing in pursuing and achieving national reconciliation. In a similar vein, President George Weah, in his inaugural speech, emphasized the need for national reconciliation. He asserted: *"The Samuel Kanyan Doe Sports Complex, built by the Chinese, where this Inaugural Ceremony is being held, is where I gained my exposure to the football world it does not only stand as a monument of Chinese friendship toward Liberians, but It also stands as a symbol of peace and reconciliation for the Liberian people". "During our civil conflict, this was a venue that brought opposing factions together during national matches, effectively reconciling them to a single national purpose, Liberia. And once again today, we stand at this same venue united for one purpose: Liberia. This is time that we put away our political differences to work together in forging a New Liberia, where the affordability of all goods and services will no longer be a luxury to the privileged, but rather a right for all Liberians"*.

¹ ANNUAL MESSAGE To the Sixth Session of the 53rd National Legislature of the Republic of Liberia
:http://www.emansion.gov.lr/doc/ANNUAL.pdf

The government's recognition of the country's need for reconciliation is contained in its PAPD. The entire pillar three (3), is dedicated to 'Sustaining the Peace' and specific topics which include: ending fragility and the root causes of conflict, increasing access to justice and reducing violent tendencies. All these topics are an integral part of fostering national reconciliation within a post-conflict context.

Despite public statements by national leaders about the relevance of national reconciliation that is reinforced in national development frameworks, like the PAPD, in order to sustain it, there must be a community dimension. This is the significance and value that this project brings to bear: mainstreaming the voices of community members and county leaders in carving their own reconciliation roadmap in sustaining the peace. What is unique about this project is that it is rooted in the experiences of local communities, identifying the drivers of divisions and collectively advancing solutions highlighted in the CAP. If fully implemented, it increases the likelihood of local ownership and commitment to reconciliation.

3.0 BRIEF HISTORICAL AND SOCIO-CONTEXT:

River Gee County is one of the newest counties which was founded in 2000 under the National Patriotic Party (NPP) Government led by former President Charles Taylor and has its political seat in Fish Town. The County, which is the third least populated county, was originally a part of Grand Gedeh County. River Gee has evergreen forests and receives high amount of rainfall and is conducive for agriculture purposes both food and cash crops. The local economy is dominated by mining, mainly in gold and diamond. On the east of the county is the Cavalla River that forms the border with Ivory Coast.

The 2008 census puts the number of literates above the age of ten was 24,062, while the number of illiterates was 20,684, making the literacy rate to 53.77. The total number of literate males was 15,006 while the total number of literate females was 9,056.² The County has a mixture of ethnic groups dominated by the Grebo. Other ethnic groups include the Krahn and Kru.

River Gee, like other counties, has experienced its share of conflict among its political leaders. In 2018, Senator Conmany Wesseh was suspended indefinitely from the county's legislative caucus by other members of the caucus.³ The members of the caucus accused Senator Wesseh of undermining and vilifying the caucus and that he was constantly disrespecting the Office of the President.

The caucus further alleged that the action of Senator Wesseh was undermining the development of the county. In response to the allegations, Senator Wesseh asserted that he had no reason to apologize to the caucus and that he was working in keeping with the law.

² https://wikimili.com/en/River_Gee_County

³ <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/politics/13666/>

4.0 METHODOLOGY:

This section provides a summary of the methodology used in generating information that was used in the compilation of this report. It further gives a detailed account of the consultative process, community and district level forums held, county plenary held, involving diverse stakeholders that led to the conceptualization and development of the county reconciliation roadmap and County Action Plan (CAP).

This project adopted a participatory approach (bottom to top), mainstreaming the voices of ordinary citizens, as well as stakeholders' engagements at multiple levels. This methodology was intended to engender local ownership and increase the chances of sustaining the process through community participation. In pursuit of this agenda, NAYMOTE implored a citizens' approach, whereby residents were the key organizers, discussants, and provided the contents for drafting the County Action Plan.

The project started with an inception phase that involved the conduct of project briefing meetings at county and district levels with local and traditional authorities, as well as representatives from CSOs and the religious community. These meetings were intended to promote local ownership of the process and increase citizens' understanding of the objectives of the project, their roles and responsibilities, as well as the intended outcomes. The meetings further sought to get the buying-in of citizens.

One key outcome of the briefing meetings was the establishment of a County Steering Committee (CSC). It is comprised of eight (8) persons headed by the Office of the Superintendent, including representatives for the local government administration, one representative each from the youth, women, civil society, media and people with disabilities groups. Please see annex for list of members of the CSC. The CSC led the planning and organizing of the community, district and county level dialogues with logistical and technical support from NAYNMOTE, through its County Coordinator.

The Advancing Reconciliation through Legislative Reforms and Civic Engagement Project being implemented by Naymote Partners for Democratic Development is building on the previous outcomes achieved⁴. This County Action Plan was developed through the conduct of series of civic engagement events, including three community dialogues, two district level dialogues and one county reconciliation dialogue, resulting in the development of a 5-year county level action for Riverge County. These activities engendered county consensus on the way forward for reconciliation. These dialogues will feed into a second phase of a national reconciliation conference in Monrovia where a 5-year work plan and vision will be validated.

⁴ Through national engagement with the Liberia Peacebuilding Office (PBO), under the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), and the county-level peace and reconciliation plans were developed (a step down to the Strategic Road Map for National Reconciliation and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report) as a result of the National Reconciliation Conference held in March 2018. The county-level plans have been incorporated in the Strategic Roadmap, the official national policy to ensure an ongoing and sustainable process of reconciliation. This grassroots engagement filled in a critical gap in Liberia's Reconciliation Process by allowing it to be devolved at the sub national level.

4.0 Conflict Assessment in Communities

Community Dialogues

In pursuit of the bottom to top approach in the implementation of this project, a conflict assessment was held targeting three (3) communities in the county, identified by the County Steering Committee (CSC) as hot spot communities.⁵ The assessment, which was conducted in the form of a townhall meeting, included representatives from women, youth, and local leaders. This assessment had two fundamental objectives:

- To gauge the views of ordinary citizens at the community level on the status of reconciliation in their communities;
- To identify conflict triggers, their root causes and implications on the county's development process.

In identifying the conflict issues, participants were divided into homogenous groups of youth, women and men. Feedback from the working sessions was discussed in plenary and consensus reached on the issues that were undermining the peace in each community. The institution conducted three Community Dialogues bringing together 108 participants representing diverse sectors (males 66 and females 42).

A summary of the main drivers of conflict included the following:

At the community dialogues, participants identified limited security presence to respond to crimes in the community, impartial justice system, illicit drugs and alcohol abuse, land and boundary disputes, lack of basic social services (safe drinking water, latrine, roads). They also identified poor education and health care systems, limited women's representation in local government structures and decision-making, rape, sexual abuse, the mismanagement of CSDF and funds for public projects, high exchange rate, increase in prices of goods and basic commodities, economic hardship, illicit mining done by foreigners and Liberian citizens who are not licensed, unemployment, especially among young people, etc.

⁵ According to the CSC, indicators of hot spots communities included: history of conflict, reports of tensions and emerging conflicts, mixed ethnic groups, and increasing commercial activities.

5.1 Validation of Findings of the Assessment

District Level Dialogues

The findings of the conflict assessment were validated through district level dialogues. In all, two district level forums were held. During the dialogues, 100 stakeholders, including 62 males and 38 females represented administrative authorities, traditional leaders, teachers, youth groups, women groups, security agencies, and CSOs. The forums also created the opportunity for participants to identify additional drivers of conflict that were not mentioned by community members who participated in the conflict assessment. Overall, the district dialogues validated the findings of the assessment and through a process of ranking and scoring, participants categorized drivers of conflict into low, medium and high risks as well as the stakeholders. During the regional forum, the issue of corruption dominated the discussions. One participant, Anthony Sieh, asserted: *“People take government money and no way to prosecute them”*. This view was reinforced by a female participant, Maybel Toe: *“Corruption is too much in the country, those who take money need to be prosecuted”*.

In addition to identifying the drivers of conflicts and their impact, participants, at the district level, were also asked about their view on the establishment of a war and economic crimes court in Liberia. Thirty-one (31) persons out of 50 participants support the establishment of the court) including 7 women. Eight (8) persons had an opposing view, while eleven (11) abstained and did not have a position.

Participants were further asked to rate the functioning of the County Service Center. Nine (9) of out fifty (50) persons said the Center was effective as opposed to 41 who mentioned that it was ineffective due to irregular provision of services, as a result of inadequate electricity.

5.2 County Level Forum:

The assessment at the community level and the validation exercise through district dialogues culminated into the conduct of a one-day county forum. A total of 50 persons (male 39 and female 11) participated in the dialogue and they included senior administrative leaders of the county, such as the Superintendent, District Commissioners, and members from security agencies, traditional leaders, leaders of women and youth groups, as well as leaders of CSOs and the media. Individuals who took part in the district level dialogues were also participants and this was intended to ensure continuity in the discussion regarding the information generated from the community and district levels.

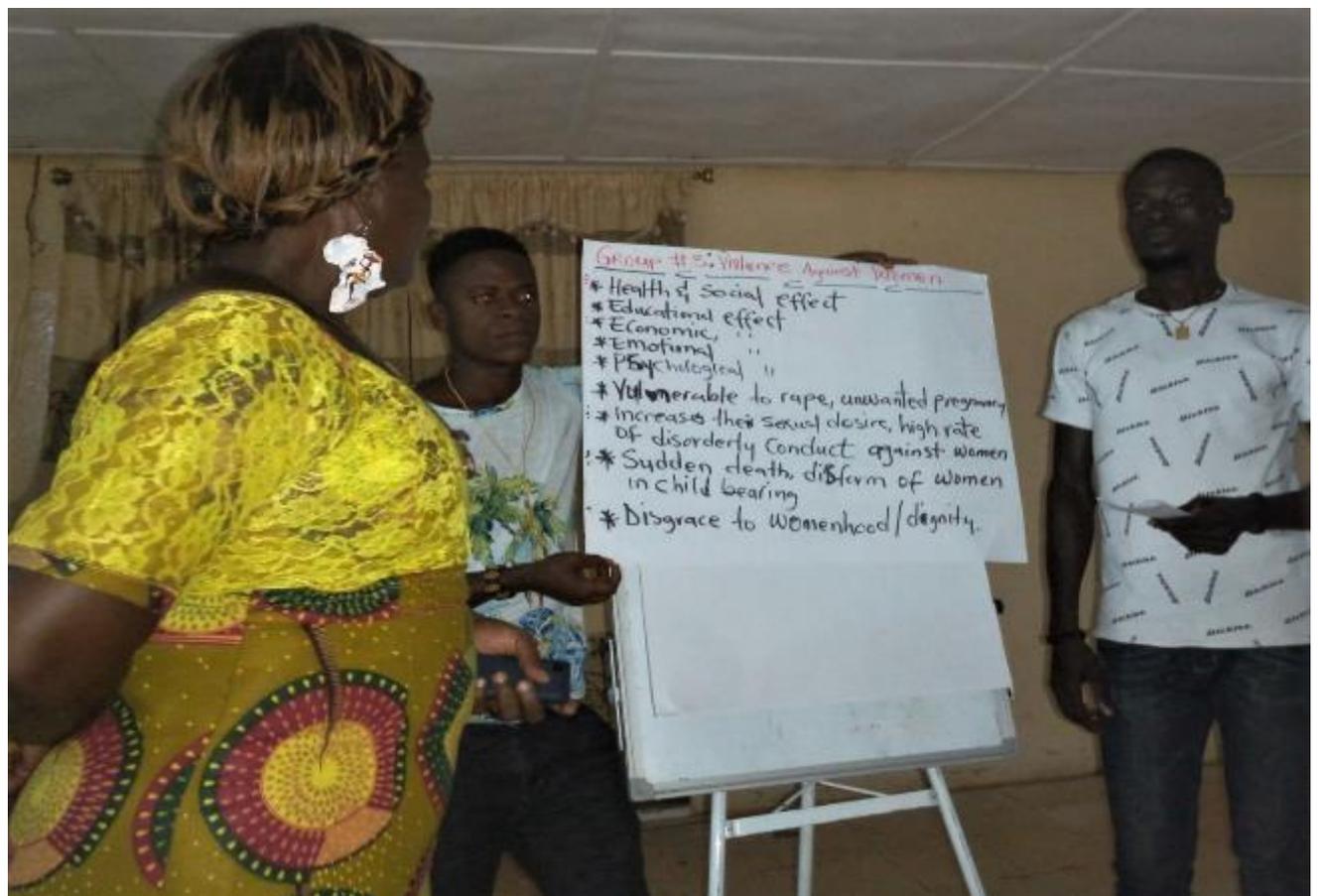
At the forum, drivers of conflict that were generated from the communities and validated at the regional forums were presented by the facilitator to the participants for their endorsement or to make recommendations for adjustments where necessary. Through a participatory process guided by the facilitator, participants had the opportunity to review the issues and have an open conversation on them.

Through homogeneous group working sessions, participants discussed the issues and proposed responses and identified actors responsible for addressing them. The responses captured as concrete actions, served as the basis for the formulation of the County Action Plan (CAP).



The CAP will serve as the document from which peace-building and reconciliation actions or interventions can be undertaken in the county for the next five (5) years. While the CAP is not set in stone, reconciliation interventions by national and international actors must be aligned to the priorities contained in the document. The below matrix highlights the issues discussed at county forum:





6.0 SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUES:

SECTOR	DRIVERS OF CONFLICT	RATING	FACTORS RESPONSIBLE	EFFECTS ON THE COUNTY	RESPONSES
Rule of law/ security	Limited police presence to respond to crimes in communities	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 75 % of towns don't have assigned police officers (Tienpo, Cheaboken police deport) ▪ Limited financial and logistical support to police 	<p>Increased crimes and insecurity amongst community member.</p> <p>Lack of trust in the justice system.</p>	<p>Gov't should deploy more security personnel and increase logistical and financial support to the police.</p> <p>Police should work with communities to establish community policing forums in communities.</p>
	Justice system is corrupt	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Judges of Magisterial Courts accept bribes 	<p>It creates mob violence</p> <p>Citizens lack trust in justice system</p> <p>Frequent reports of mob violence</p>	<p>Judiciary should rotate the judges of the magisterial courts.</p> <p>Judges who are caught taking bribes should be punished.</p> <p>Create awareness on the justice sector and rule of law.</p>
Social Cohesion	Land and boundary disputes between and among families, communities, and other counties sometimes result into ethnic conflicts.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customary practices in the transfer of land. ▪ Inter marriages (giving land to in-laws for farming) ▪ Multiple sale of land. 	Fractured and broken relationships.	Land Authority should set up committee to settle land cases in the county and demarcate boundaries.

	Lack of basic social services (safe drinking water, health, latrine, roads)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water service provider not reaching the water table during digging of well ▪ Some communities not accessible due to bad road condition ▪ Limited drugs and medical supplies to health facilities and diversion of drugs by health workers to the private facilities. 	<p>Citizens feel disconnected from the state.</p> <p>Increased death rate due to constant sicknesses.</p>	<p>Increased awareness on WASH in communities</p> <p>Gov't should construct and maintain feeder roads leading to remote villages and towns</p> <p>Lawmakers should place more money in the budget for health and education</p> <p>MoH should ensure robust monitoring of services provided by health facilities.</p>
	Poor education system	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some qualified teachers are not on government payroll. - Lack of logistics (medical supplies, vehicles/ ambulances, school materials) - Limited allocation in the national budget for education - Limited monitoring of schools. 	<p>Limited access to quality education</p> <p>Social exclusion is reinforced.</p>	<p>Employment of qualified teachers.</p> <p>Monitoring of school system</p> <p>Increased involvement of PTAs in the management of schools.</p> <p>Increased budgetary support for schools.</p>

	Representation of women in local government and decision-making is low.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional norms and practices limit women's participation - Limited capacity building programs for women (vocational skills) - Limited financial capacity - Lack of self-confidence to compete for elected public offices. 	Kills women dreams	<p>Gov't should include active and proactive women in local government</p> <p>Prioritize women capacity building programs</p> <p>Gov't should ensure the speedy implementation of the Local Government Act.</p>
	Tribal politics and nepotism	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional practices - Language barriers - Patronage politics 	Political exclusion	There should be dialogues with stakeholders on the effect of political exclusion.
Violence Against Women and Girls	Rape and sexual abuse	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of criminal accountability - Compromise of rape cases by family members - High intake of drugs by men - Traditional practice that forces girls into early marriage. 	<p>Emotional and psychological effects on women.</p> <p>Increased death rate among teenage girls during childbirth.</p>	<p>Gov't through MoGCSP should ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.</p> <p>Increase awareness and dialogue across the county on effects of rape/sexual abuse</p> <p>Gov't and partners should construct safe homes for rape victims.</p> <p>Gov't should ensure the prosecution of perpetrators of rape.</p>

					Community residents should avoid compromising rape and sexual abuse cases.
Accountability	Mismanagement of County Social Development Funds (CSDFs)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflict of interest, lawmakers and county administration colluding with contractors - Limited information about concessions and national budget allocation to the county. - Bias selection of contractors by PMC - Lack of monitoring and evaluation of county projects - Irregularities in the county sitting processes - Lawmakers' failure to inform citizens about concession agreements/ budget - Local leaders not sharing information with citizens about the budget 	<p>Construction of sub-standard projects.</p> <p>Create lot of unfinished projects and stalled development in the county</p> <p>Limited benefits from concession companies</p> <p>Shortage of drugs/ medical supplies to health facilities and limited supplies to schools</p>	<p>Community residents and CSOs should properly monitor the implementation of the CSDF.</p> <p>Increased awareness on concession agreements and county benefits.</p> <p>Increased awareness on budget allocation to the county.</p> <p>Local government officials should host regular dialogues with citizens on concession agreements.</p>

	Politicians seeking elected offices make unrealistic promises during campaign period.	High	Politicians exploit the impoverished condition of citizens during campaign period.	County's development is undermined. Citizens lost respect for public official	Community residents, CSOs should demand politicians to fulfill campaign promises through monitoring and tracking of their promises Constructively engage and advocate for implementation of promises Increased awareness on the workings of lawmakers
	Local leaders not accountable to citizens	High	- Local leaders are appointed by the President and do not feel they are answerable to citizens.		Government should ensure the speedy implementation of the Local Government Act to ensure the decentralization of political authorities.
Economy	Economic hardship	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of price control by government - High taxes on business investments and investors - High exchange rate - Lack of raw materials, being exported to the world market - Limited investment in agriculture by Government 	<p>Stall investment in county</p> <p>Increased crimes rate.</p> <p>Poverty among families.</p> <p>Exclusion from benefiting from the wealth of the country</p>	<p>All government employees should be paid in Liberian dollars</p> <p>There should be lower denomination of Liberian dollars in coins</p> <p>Gov't should invest more in agricultural projects; Gov't should attract investors and encourage investors to build industries/ factories in Liberia</p> <p>Regulation of prices by government through the Ministry of Commerce</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in prices of goods and services due to high inflation. 		<p>Gov't should lower taxes and provide micro loans to owners of businesses</p> <p>MOA should establish and support farmers' cooperative.</p>
	Illicit mining in the gold and diamond sectors. done by foreigners and Liberian citizens who are not licensed	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foreigners and Liberians without licenses are mining. - Gov. officials support unlicensed miners to extract resources - Poor monitoring of the miners by government - Bribery of law enforcement officers and government by miners. 	<p>Decreases Government revenue</p> <p>Community members do not benefit from local resources.</p>	Gov't should ensure the proper monitoring of miners
	Unemployment	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of concession companies in the county - Lack of vocational training schools 	<p>Increased crimes in communities</p> <p>No jobs for young people.</p>	<p>Gov't should provide livelihood skills training for women and youth</p> <p>Create job opportunities for citizens by investing in agriculture</p> <p>Gov't should attract more investors to Liberia.</p>
			-		

7.0 County Reconciliation Roadmap:

- The county is reconciled, peaceful and united in all its undertakings and citizens are the front drivers of the social, economic and political spheres of the county.
- County resources, proceeds generated, and social benefits are fairly distributed across the county; and adequately managed in a way that local leadership are accountable to the people and development projects/initiatives are decided by the people of the county.
- Equal opportunities and basic services are provided for all citizens of Rivergee County irrespective of age, gender, religion, social, economic status and/or political affiliation.
- All citizens of Rivergee County demonstrate an appreciation of the county's culture, tradition and history, thereby promoting a sense of patriotism.

7.1 County Action Plan

COUNTY ACTION PLAN FOR INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY RECONCILIATION IN RIVER GEE COUNTY:

	Vision of the Roadmap: In pursuit of this roadmap, the vision of Rivergee County is: <i>A reconciled county where all citizens have equal opportunities to participate in the decision-making process of the county.</i>						
	Overall Goal 1: Improved relationships among stakeholders in the county that cuts across different divides.						
Strategic Objective	Strategy	Activities	Responsible Party (ies)	Resources	Indicators of success	Means of Verification	Timeframe
Increased citizens' trust in the criminal justice system	Stakeholders' engagement led by the Superintendent of the leadership of the organs of the criminal justice system. Lack of trust in government institutions.	Information sharing and meetings between and among the respective arms of the criminal justice system. Monitoring the performance of the arms of the criminal justice system and advocate for redress.	County Superintendent County Attorney Police Commander Director of Prison CSOs	Stationery Communications Funding	Number of joint actions taken by the arms of criminal justice system Number of persons disaggregated by location and gender accessing the courts.	Reports of inter-agency meetings held. Reports of joint actions taken. Monitoring and documentation as well as advocacy reports.	Start during first quarter of 2020-2024
Increase citizens' access to national and local mechanisms for resolving land conflicts.	Engage the Liberia Land Authority on its operations in the county	Make information of the contents of the Land Rights Act available to community members.	CSOS Liberia Land Authorities	Simplified version of the Land Rights Act Funding to conduct awareness by CSOs.	Number of boundary disputes resolved by the LLA and local structures	Reports of land cases resolved.	Mid 2020-2023

<p>Accountability</p>	<p>Advocacy and stakeholders' engagement targeting the legislative caucus, MFDP as well as leadership at the county level.</p> <p>Advocate for a change to the budget law that will limit the influence of the role of the lawmakers in the county sitting and a stand-alone policy for the management of funds.</p>	<p>Review national budget to have an idea on allocations made for CSDF</p> <p>Formulate county development plan</p> <p>Track payment from MFDP, to county</p> <p>Improve quality of county sitting so that it is inclusive</p> <p>Monitor implementation of prioritized projects.</p>	<p>County Legislators</p> <p>Superintendent</p> <p>Development Superintendent</p> <p>Project Management Committee</p> <p>County Budget Officer</p> <p>CSOs</p>	<p>Copies of simplified version of the approved national budget.</p> <p>Funding for advocacy and monitoring the implementation of the projects.</p>	<p>Change of laws to make county sitting inclusive and less controlled by lawmakers.</p> <p>County projects are responsive to the needs of citizens</p>	<p>Copies of the amended law</p> <p>Minutes of county sittings</p> <p>Monitoring reports from CSOs.</p>	<p>Beginning last quarter of 2019 to 2024</p>
<p>Reduce rape and violence against women</p>	<p>Social and community mobilization</p> <p>Advocacy for criminal accountability of perpetrators.</p>	<p>Organize community meetings with diverse stakeholders</p> <p>Monitor and document rape and violence against women</p>	<p>Ministry of Gender Task force on SGBV</p> <p>CSOs</p> <p>Agencies of the Criminal Justice System</p>	<p>Funding to conduct awareness, mobilize communities, document rape cases and advocate for redress.</p>	<p>Number of persons prosecuted for rape and violence against women</p> <p>Number of family members compromising cases is reduced</p>	<p>Reports from the courts</p> <p>Reports from CSOs</p>	<p>Beginning first quarter in 2020 up to 2024</p>

		Advocate for redress.	UN partners and other development partners		Number of persons found guilty	Feedback from community members	
Increase employment for citizens within the private sector	Engagement with the private sector particularly mining, the legislature and Ministry of Mines and Energy	Take stock of the scale of their operations and put them into low, medium and large-scale investors. Identify youths in the mining communities with skills that can be utilized by mining companies. Monitoring of operations of companies.	County authorities The legislative caucus of the county Ministry of Mines and Energy	Stationery Logistics for monitoring	Number of residents hired by companies extracting mines	County Records	Beginning first quarter of 2020 up to 2024

MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE

No.	Name	Institution	Position
1.	Hon. Paul S. T. Brooks	Ministry of Internal Affairs	County Inspector
2.	Hon. James Pah Sayee	Traditional Council of Rivergee	Head
3.	Mr. Kennedy D. G. Dormu	Religious Council	Secretary
4.	Mr. King Letus M. Massah	Potupo Youth Association	President
5.	Ms. Mabel J. Toe	Rural Women	Head
6.	Mr. Archie Collins	Radio Gee	Journalist
7.	Mr. Eric Barley	Civil Society Council of Rivergee	Advisor
8.	Mr. Philip Sahtoe	Disable Association of Rivergee	Coordinator

8.0 RECOMMENDATION:

In order to avoid this document from sitting on the shelf, it is strongly recommended that the county administration, in collaboration with the Peace-Building Office (PBO), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and the County Legislative Caucus develop a fundraising strategy to raise funds for the implementation of specific pillars over the five-year period.

For the Government:

That the government demonstrates its commitment to peace and reconciliation as contained in the (PAPD) by allocating resources in the national budget for the implementation of county-level reconciliation efforts.

For the International Development Partners:

Develop a mechanism for the flow of information that will improve coordination in supporting peace and reconciliation efforts that will address the structural conditions of conflict in Liberia.

For the Peacebuilding Office/MIA:

Develop a strategy for the coordination of efforts among CSOs supporting national and county level peace and reconciliation efforts. The PBO should limit its role to project implementation and focus more on coordination and monitoring the quality of implementation of CSOs.

For Civil Society Organizations:

Peace and reconciliation interventions should be developed in close consultation with the PBO so that resources are maximized and are addressing the most pressing needs.

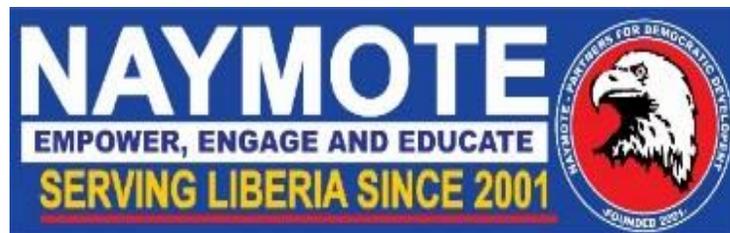
For Local Leaders:

Use the County Action Plan and Roadmap for setting the county's reconciliation agenda and engaging CSOs and development partners to influence their reconciliation program.

THE ADVANCING RECONCILIATION THROUGH LEGISLATIVE REFORMS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



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