

	digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020120			
	Total estimated cost: EUR 25 000 000			
	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 25 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Liberia, a West African nation heavily reliant on mineral resources, rubber, palm oil, and food imports, aspires to achieve a middle-income status by 2030 and advance towards the SDGs. This transformation requires structural changes in the economy, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, and forest, to increase revenues, foster inclusive growth and entrepreneurship, and create decent jobs, especially for youth and women.

However, these sectors face important challenges, including inadequate collaboration among stakeholders along the value chains, lack of technical expertise insufficient infrastructure and equipment, limited access to finance, low quality of products and non-compliance with basic standards related to food security.

To address these challenges and unlock the full potential of Liberia's economic development, a collaborative effort aligned with the Global Gateway will enhance the investment climate and business environment. This entails policy dialogue, regulatory reforms, value chain development (cassava, fisheries, and wood processing), support to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), public-private partnerships (PPPs), capacity building and empowerment initiatives for women and youth. Accessing innovative financial mechanisms like the EU External Investment Plan, notably the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) will be crucial. The focus will be on inclusive agrifood sectors, fisheries, aquaculture and wood processing in both urban and rural areas.

The Action aims at building market-driven, sustainable, and inclusive value chains for cassava, fisheries and wood processing with the goal of fostering enhanced job creation, sustainable economic growth and increased competitiveness for business in Liberia. The specific objectives are: improving the overall business environment and investment climate by facilitating public-private dialogue and engaging in regulatory reforms; and strengthening the sustainability, inclusiveness, performance and growth of the cassava, fisheries and wood processing value chains to promote trade and decent job creation. The Action will be implemented through contribution agreements with EU Member States agencies.

The Action is coherent with the two Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) on 'Safe and Sustainable Food Systems' and 'Forestry and Biodiversity' and will contribute to the realisation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III)¹.

Focusing on economic diversification and on sustainable value chains development the Action will support Liberia to progress towards the SDGs, namely, SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG 13 (climate action).

¹ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf.