

MSG review of the outcomes and impact of the EITI

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Introduction

Regular disclosure of extractive industry data is of little practical use without public awareness, understanding of what the figures mean, and public debate about how resource revenues can be used effectively. The EITI Requirements related to outcomes and impact seek to ensure that

stakeholders are engaged in dialogue about natural resource revenue management. EITI disclosures lead to the fulfilment of the EITI Principles by contributing to wider public debate. It is also vital that lessons learnt during implementation are acted upon, that recommendations from EITI implementations are considered and acted on where appropriate, and that EITI implementation is stable, sustainable.

The multi-stakeholder group may use this template to monitor the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation. It is sufficient to include a link to other publicly available documentation where information is already available elsewhere. The scope of this template reflects EITI Requirement 1.5 on the work plan and Requirements 7.1 to 7.4 on outcomes and impact.

The MSG is required to review the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation annually (Requirement 7.4). The MSG is encouraged to update this document annually to monitor progress, improve data accessibility, and inform work planning.

To inform Validation, the MSG is required to submit the completed form to the International Secretariat Validation team by the Validation commencement date. The period captured in this review may be the period since the previous Validation or the previous calendar/fiscal year. The MSG should indicate the period covered by its review.

The MSG's annual review of the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation should be publicly available, and stakeholders beyond MSG members should have an opportunity to provide feedback on the EITI process (Requirement 7.4).

Part I: Relevance of EITI implementation

Work plan (Requirement 1.5)

1. Basic information about the current EITI work plan.

Period covered by the current EITI work plan	July 1, 2020 – 31 December 2021
Information on how the public can access the work plan.	LEITI 2021-2022 workplan
Process for producing the current EITI work plan	Workplan Development Procedures Procedures followed in the production of the workplan since 2016 are as prescribed by a strategic document developed by the LEITI MSG.

2. Explain how the work plan's objectives reflect national priorities for the extractive industry. If available, provide links to supporting documentation, such as studies or national development plans.

The LEITI Workplan is developed mainly to address key issues affecting Liberia's oil, mining, agriculture, and forest sectors and their significance to the economy. Further, and more importantly, the work plan is developed and linked to supporting key provisions of the Country's 5-year national development policy.

Pillar	Development Outcomes
Pillar One: Power to the People Goal: To empower Liberians with the tools to gain control of their lives; reaching the furthest first and leaving no one behind	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieving more inclusive and higher quality education with greater access to ICT through the life cycle of all Liberians 2. Increased and inclusive access to quality essential health and reduced overall morbidity/mortality 3. Gender equality entrenched as a cross-cutting concern leading to more empowered women and girls 4. Increased access to integrated services for Youths and Young Adults 5. Enhanced access to social safety nets through social assistance, social cash transfer, and social inclusion through work opportunities for the most vulnerable and extremely poor groups and regions
Pillar Two: The Economy and Jobs Goal: A stable macroeconomic environment enabling private sector-led economic growth, greater competitiveness, and diversification of the economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An improved environment for private-sector led growth, balanced revenue and expenditure outturns, and enhanced domestic revenue 2. Increased and inclusive social and economic activity and connectivity through critical infrastructure improvements 3. Increased agricultural production and productivity and improved forest utilization through competitive value chains and market linkages for food and income security, economic growth, and job creation 4. Improved fiscal and monetary policy management to promote economic growth and job creation
Pillar Three: Sustaining the Peace Goal: A more peaceful and unified society that enables economic transformation and sustainable development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A society that embraces its triple heritage and guarantees space for all positive cultures to thrive 2. A society where justice, rule of law and human rights prevail 3. Improved security service delivery nationwide with adequate capacity to deter and or respond to security threats
Pillar Four: Governance and Transparency Goal: An inclusive and accountable public sector for shared prosperity and sustainable development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A reformed public sector exhibiting improved fiscal discipline and service delivery, and a rebalance in the concentration of economic and political activities away from Monrovia 2. Improved tenure in the governance of natural resources 3. More robust structures reducing waste and other systemic losses in the operations of Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions 4. Universal migration to ICT platforms and wider adoption of e-government to improve business processes and productivity

LEITI 2021 -2022 Workplan is linked to Pillar Two (Job and the Economy) and Pillar Four (Governance and Transparency) of the Government's five-year national development policy, [Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development](#).

Program initiatives, including strengthening beneficial ownership disclosure, will reduce illicit financial flows, increase revenues from the extractive sector, and improve transparency over the governance sector. Mainstreaming EITI reports enhance the timeliness and reduces the costs of public access to information on the sector, and strengthens debates and policy recommendations.

Also, Liberia recognized new international requirements and standards for maintaining beneficial ownership information for domestic and foreign entities and has been striving to ensure adherence to it and compliance with such requirements and standards and the implementation thereof. Hence, the Liberian Government has enacted an amendment to the Business Corporations Act, Chapter 1, Title 5, Liberian Code of Laws Revised (the "Amendment"), implementing certain recommendations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Ownership Information for Tax Purposes (the "OECD") and the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (the "FATF").

Through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Liberian Government has developed a vision to formalize the Country's artisanal mining sector. [A regulatory roadmap document](#) has been created to enhance the process.

These efforts reflect national priorities areas undertaken by the national Government for a better extractive sector governance.

3. Optional question: Has the MSG developed a theory of change on how EITI implementation will address the identified challenges of your country's sector? If yes, please reference the corresponding document here.

The LEITI MSG developed a five-year strategic plan in 2017 that would address key recommendations in Liberia's EITI Validation and described strategic interventions to enhance the EITI implementation in the Country.

[LEITI's Strategic Plan](#)

Monitoring progress

4. Provide an overview of activities undertaken in the period under review and progress in achieving the objectives of the previous work plan. The MSG is encouraged to provide a summary here and document progress in more detail in the work plan.

The below links provide an overview of the planned and executed activities for LEITI during the period under review:

[LEITI Workplan 2017-2018](#)

[LEITI Workplan 2019-2020](#)

[LEITI Workplan 2020-2021](#)

[LEITI Workplan 2021-2022](#)

[Annual Activity Report 2017 and 2018](#)

[Annual Activity Report- 2019](#)

5. Provide an overview of the multi-stakeholder group's responses to any progress made in addressing the recommendations from EITI reporting and Validation and gaps in information in accordance with Requirement 7.3.

The multi-stakeholder group is required to list each recommendation and the corresponding activities that have been undertaken to address the recommendations and the level of progress in implementing each recommendation. Where the Government or the multi-stakeholder group has decided not to enforce a recommendation, it is required that the multi-stakeholder group documents the rationale.

Recommendation:	Status/progress:
4.1 The MSG should ensure consistency in reporting across the sectors covered by the reporting period. It should explore approaches for streamlining the presentation of inter-sectoral to prevent the EITI Report from becoming cumbersome and inaccessible.	<p>The MSG has transitioned from a sector-specific template to a standard template for all reporting entities, effective the 2018/19 report cycle. Under the Flex reporting framework, all government agencies submitted payment data using a standard template, and requests for beneficial ownership and production and export data used a standard template.</p> <p>Standardize Template- Companies</p> <p>Standardize Template- Government</p>
4.2 As a matter of priority, industry and civil society should agree on constituency guidelines establishing robust mechanisms for consultations with their broader constituencies. The MSG should also review its governance documents considering current practices to ensure that the statutory rules are followed in	<p>LEITI has a structured constituency feedback process. It is documented here: LEITI Constituency Mechanism</p> <p>The MSG has approved in its provisional Workplan \$45,000 for constituency feedback for 2021 – 2022. Funding to support this endeavor is being identified.</p>

<p>practice, particularly about the number of representatives that each constituency should have. To secure real high-level government participation, LEITI may wish to consider lowering the frequency of meetings – for example holding quarterly meetings – and/or lowering the level of government representation on the MSG except for the Chair.</p>	<p>The same amount was allocated in 2020-2021, sponsored by the African Development Bank. The breakdown is as follows:</p> <p>Civil Society – \$15,025 Private Sector – \$12,150 Government - \$6,822 Retreat - \$10,000</p> <p>Both Government and civil societies have held consultations with their constituencies from this amount. The private sector's consultations are pending due to COVID-19 restrictions and the expiration of the tenure of the MSG. It is expected that the consultations will take place in January 2022.</p> <p>At a retreat held in Buchanan in February 2021, the MSG agreed to a quarterly meeting. Said meetings are rotational to allow senior-level government ministers to participate fully.</p> <p>MSG Retreat story link in the newsletter: LEITI Newsletter</p> <p>MSG Retreat Report</p>
<p>4.3 The MSG is strongly encouraged to review its annual workplan and ensure that appropriate consultations are held with all three broader constituencies as a means of ensuring that the workplan objectives are aligned with national priorities. The MSG should also include more specific activities linked to the following EITI recommendations.</p>	<p>The MSG has oversight on the development of the workplan. The recent workplan was approved on October 10 2021. Each constituency received feedback from its broader membership through consultations. For example, the PWYP meets periodically with its members to share LEITI documents, including workplan, to seek inputs. Representatives from agriculture, forestry, mining, etc., all have documented meetings with the broader constituency to seek information into LEITI material/documents, including the workplan.</p>
<p>4.4 The Government is encouraged to ensure that its high-level political commitment to engaging in EITI implementation is matched by active engagement by line ministries in oversight, outreach, and dissemination.</p>	<p>The Government is represented on the MSG by senior-level officials, Ministers of Finance, Justice, Mines, energy, Education, Agriculture, and the Managing Directors of the National Oil Company and the Forestry Development Authority.</p>

The Chair and Co-Chair of the MSG are the Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority and the Ministry of Mines and Energy, respectively.

The Government of Liberia continues to provide operational support for EITI implementation. The national budget covers all operating expenses (salaries, fuel, office space, etc.) for 2021-2022. The Government paid for the 2018/19 EITI report.

WORKPLAN SECTION				
Source	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/2022	% Change	Fund Source
Government of Liberia (GOL)(Salary)	\$ 186,698	\$ 281,847	34%	Core(Salary)
Government of Liberia (GOL)(Operations)	\$ 294,997	\$ 329,599	10%	Operations
AFDB	\$ 606,000	\$ 444,000	-36%	AFDB
Opening Extractive	\$ -	\$ 115,000	100%	Opening Extractive
GAP	\$ 350,000	\$ 370,000	5%	Gap
Total	\$ 1,437,695	\$ 1,540,446	7%	

As per the recommendation from the last report, current works are ongoing to ensure that government entities and companies establish focal points. Kindly see the below link :

[Letter to entities for the establishment of LEITI's focal person](#)

In LEITI's 10th and 11th report, the IA observed the lack of export data disclosure from Liberia's Ministry of Mines and Energy. In due cognizance of the IA's recommendation, the Ministry has taken gradual steps to disclose export data for diamonds.

[Diamond Export; Figures and Prospects](#)

4.5 The CSOs actively engaged in EITI implementation may wish to consider strengthening their outreach on EITI issues beyond the dissemination of EITI Reports, to enhance the inclusiveness of the EITI process and ensure local demands for information are taken into account in national MSG discussions.

Under a grant from the African Development Bank, the CSOs as a constituency were supported to strengthen their capacity to diversify their approach beyond dissemination.

CSO Engagement story in the newsletter: [Newsletter](#)

<p>4.6 The industry constituency is encouraged to formalize mechanisms for consultations and coordination of its stakeholders, to improve companies' engagement in EITI-related outreach and dissemination.</p>	<p>While there is a formalized constituency feedback structure for the MSG, there is no constituency-specific feedback process for the private sector. They follow what is prescribed by the MSG.</p> <p>See below link:</p> <p>Constituency Feedback Mechanism</p>
<p>4.7 In light of the significance of off-budget revenues, the MSG should ensure that future EITI Reports identify revenue streams that are not recorded in the national budget and explain the allocation of such off-budget revenues. It is also encouraged to consider using future EITI Reports as a means of tracking implementation of the International Monetary Fund's Government Finance Statistics (GFS) classifications for extractive revenues.</p>	<p>Liber's 12th EITI report includes classifications following Section 8(d) of the Public Financial Management Act 2009.</p> <p>LEITI 12th Report</p>
<p>4.8 In preparing its next EITI Report, the MSG should comprehensively discuss the issue of materiality and ensure that its discussions and decisions are well documented. The MSG should base its materiality discussion on the Government's full disclosure of all extractive revenues collected, including that off-budget, and specify a clear materiality threshold for selecting revenue streams for reconciliation. The</p> <p>MSG should adhere to clear agreed definitions of payment types. The MSG should also ensure that the Government's full unilateral</p>	<p>During the preparation of the 12th report, the LEITI MSG had a sitting to discuss and agree on the materiality, revenue streams, and the Government's full disclosure of all extractive revenues collected during the period. These decisions were documented and transmitted to the Independent Administrator, who also used these as references in the 12th report. See page 33 of LEITI 12th report.</p> <p>January 6 MSG Meeting Minutes</p>

<p>disclosure is presented disaggregated by revenue streams and that the overall comprehensiveness of the EITI Report by the Independent Administrator (IA) is included.</p>	
<p>4.9 The MSG should ensure any deviations from the standard TOR for the IA in future EITI Reports are non-material and should base its discussion of assurance procedures on an assessment of actual practice. The MSG may also wish to use recommendations of the EITI Report as a monitoring and evaluation platform for assessing progress in public and private-sector auditing practices, potentially liaising with INTOSAI and AFROSAI-Eon extractives revenue auditing standards.</p>	<p>The 12th EITI report was produced under the Flexible Reporting framework. The MSG approved the TOR, and the MGS did not identify any deviations from the report and the TOR. LEITI's 12th report was done under the Flexible Reporting Framework that required unilateral disclosure. However, the MSG agreed that authorized senior-level managers sign off on reporting templates from government institutions and companies to ensure data credibility and assurance. Page 31-33 of LEITI 12th report.</p> <p>2021-2022 the MSG approved the IA's recommendation to identify EITI focal persons at each government reporting agency to ensure data collection and audit ease.</p> <p>Below is a link to a step taken to implement the above recommendation.</p> <p>Focal Person Letter</p>
<p>4.10 The MSG is urged to ensure that future EITI Reports clearly describe the actual practice of license awards and transfers in the period under review. Alternatively, the MSG should ensure that post-award process audit reports are published in a timelier manner. The MSG should ensure that future EITI Reports disclose the technical and financial criteria as well as the overall process for awarding and transferring licenses for any license, lease, title, permit, contract, or concession by which the Government confers on a company or individual rights to explore or</p>	<p>During the period under review, no post-award process audit was conducted. However, the 12th report details the report on financial and technical criteria and the overall processes for the awarding and transferring licenses across the sectors.</p>

<p>exploit oil, gas and mineral resources. The MSG should also ensure that future EITI Reports disclose any deviations for licenses awarded or transferred in the year under review.</p>	
<p>4.11 The MSG should work with the Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy (MLME) and the national oil company, NOCAL, to ensure that future EITI Reports provide information on commodities covered by mining licenses as well as disclose dates of application of oil and gas Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) held by material companies. Alternatively, the MSG should ensure that future EITI Reports include references to where this information is publicly available. The MSG could also consider opportunities to harmonize the databases of extractive industry companies across different government entities (MLME, the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC), and NOCAL) to ensure consistent license-holder information.</p>	<p>Annex 2 and 3 of the 12th report includes information on commodities and licenses, date of applications, contract types, contracts start and end dates. Annex 2 on page 152 of the 12th report has the outlined information for the Oil and Gas sector, while Annex 3 on page 153 contains this information on the mining sector.</p>
<p>4.12 In preparing its next EITI Report, the MSG should undertake a more complete scoping of state participation in the mining and oil and gas sectors and describe NOCAL's relations with the state and the practice of off-budget expenditures. The MSG should assess the existence and materiality of quasi-fiscal spending and ensure</p>	<p>There is a complete scoping of state participation across the four sectors-mining, oil and gas, agriculture, and forestry. However, in the 12th report, it is noted that there was no state participation in the mining, agriculture, and forestry sectors. NOCAL is the only state-owned enterprise in the Oil and Gas sector (see Page 57. Also, according to this report, no quasi-fiscal expenditure was made during the period under review; see page 64 of the 12th report.</p>

<p>that future EITI Reports comprehensively disclose any material quasi-fiscal expenses undertaken by NOCAL or about state participation in the mining sector. The MSG may also wish to identify all types of payments made by NOCAL to different government entities to ensure that future EITI Reports disclose any ad hoc transfers by state-owned enterprises (SOEs).</p>	
<p>4.13 The MSG should ensure that future EITI Reports disclose the production value for all commodities produced and the export volumes for all commodities exported.</p>	<p>Information on production and exports value and volume are captured in the 12th report. Page 184 contains production, volume, and value information, while page 186 provides export data in volume and value.</p>
<p>4.14 The MSG should ensure that future EITI Reports clarify the full scope of mandatory social expenditures in Liberia's mining, oil and gas sectors. Reporting mandatory social expenditures should be disaggregated by type of payment and beneficiary, clarifying the name and function of any non-government (third-party) beneficiaries of compulsory social spending. The MSG may also wish to consider the feasibility of reconciling mandatory social expenditure disclosures and, subject to the three stakeholder groups' agreement, consider establishing a</p>	<p>Mandatory social expenditure was captured under the mining sector, and these were towards health care, education, training, and assistance to mining and geology programs. Full disclosure is in annex 12 on page 176 of the 12th report.</p> <p>This is captured under the 12th report, 4.2.11 page 88. It is reported that there were no infrastructure provisions captured during the period under review across the sectors.</p>

<p>robust framework for reporting voluntary social expenditures.</p> <p>4.15 The MSG should assess the existence of infrastructure provisions during the scoping phase to ensure that companies' disclosures are categorized according to strict definitions.</p>	
<p>4.16 Liaising with relevant government entities, the MSG should ensure that future EITI Reports provide the extractive industries' share of total government revenues and employment data in the oil and gas sector for the period under review. The MSG may also wish to agree on a definition of extractive industry employment, considering whether to include non-permanent staff and consider ways of publishing this information in a timelier manner online.</p>	<p>The TOR for the 12th EITI report approved by the MSG includes the EI sector share of total revenue and employment data. See page 121</p> <p>LEITI 12th Report</p>

6. How have lessons learned from EITI implementation informed the current work plan?

LEITI workplans are informed by several factors, including national sector priority, findings, recommendations from EITI reports, EITI Standard, citizens during annual dissemination exercises, etc. Consequently, the current work plan includes several program initiatives or activities from the sources outlined above.

Below are examples of activities included in the current work plan that arise from lessons learned from implementation:

Beneficial Ownership Disclosure: While this is a requirement of the EITI Standard, Liberia, like many African countries, experiences revenue leakages due to illicit financial flows. Liberia has also participated in the EITI BO pilot program in 2017. Findings from that engagement underscore that Liberia takes steps to strengthen governance of the sector by disclosing the beneficial owners of those applying for or own mineral rights.

Mainstreaming: Like many implementing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Liberia continues to experience budgetary challenges. The effects of Ebola and Covid-19 have further weakened revenue generation, hindering the Government's ability to sponsor specific program initiatives, including LEITI. Additionally, citizens continue to raise concerns over the lag in accessing the information on the extractive sector, given that LEITI reports are mainly produced two years after the close of the fiscal year. These concerns have led the MSG to prioritize mainstreaming activities in the current LEITI workplan. At a retreat held in Grand Bassa County in February 2021, the MSG, through a consensus effort, agreed and approved the updating of the Mainstreaming Feasibility Study that was done in 2017. The MSG agreed to update the Mainstreaming Feasibility Study in line with the 2019 EITI Standard and changes that have occurred in the Government's operation. A concept note and budget were subsequently developed and approved for onward submission to the AfDB for approval to begin the work. To this end, an Express Of Interest (EOI) to recruit a consultant for a mainstreaming feasibility study was first published in October 2021. A final report is expected in mid-March 2022.

Innovations and impact

7. Summary of any steps taken by the MSG to exceed EITI Requirements in a way that addresses national or local extractive sector governance priorities.

The Government of Liberia, in September 2021, launched the Opening Extractive Program aimed at establishing a Beneficial Ownership Registry for the extractive sector. The Government's participation in this program aligns with pillar four (governance and transparency) of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

[Opening Extractive Program Launch- Spoon TV](#)

[Opening Extractive Program Launch- Kpatawee Post](#)

Also, the LEITI MSG, over the period, took keen steps to mainstream the activities of the EITI with all relevant ministries, agencies, and commissions with the objectives of reducing human contacts during reports and aiding to catalyze the reporting process, among others.

Liberia has also added forestry and agriculture to the mining, oil, and gas sectors under the EITI value chains-which step exceed EITI Requirements and addresses national extractive governance priorities.

The Government is currently underway through the Ministry of Mines and Energy to improve the artisanal mining industry in Liberia, which has been hugely illicit.

[MME Measures to curb Illicit Mining in the Artisanal Mining](#)

[MME Artisanal Mining Measures](#)

[Request for Expression to improve Artisanal Mining](#)

[Artisanal Mining Reform](#)

While the EITI encourages contract transparency, contract disclosure is lawful and mandatory in Liberia. The LEITI has also disseminated the Abridged Simplified Contract matrix across Liberia. The matrix is a simplified version of all 26 contracts awarded by the Government of Liberia in the oil, mining, agriculture, and forestry sectors.

Mandatory Contract Disclosure: [concessions-contracts-and-agreements](#)

Simplified Contract Matrix: [contract matrix final version.pdf](#)

The LEITI MSG, during the period under review, took steps to further expand the scope of the EITI process by initiating a full registry of beneficial owners of all companies operating within the Country's extractive sector. A roadmap was developed from which an assessment has been developed: [Beneficial Ownership Assessment Report](#)

8. What kind of outcomes and impact have these measures resulted in during the period under review?

A mandatory contract disclosure has hugely aided the fight against corruption as contracts and concessions in forestry and agriculture are now in the public glare for scrutiny. Many Liberians can easily read and understand the contract matrix's concession agreements under the extractive sector. This has also resulted in increased public debate amongst citizens around the fair implementation of various concessions, especially in affected communities.

9. If the MSG has plans to include new issues or approaches to EITI implementation, please describe these.

The MSG has discussed including Fisheries under its EITI scope. The MSG will consider including in its 2023 workplan the conduct of a scoping study to include the sub-sector into the EITI reporting in Liberia. Additionally, the MSG approved using the Flexible Reporting Framework to produce LEITI's 12th report. The Flexible Reporting Framework kept the momentum in Liberia amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and it also resulted in the disclosure of timely data.

[LEITI 12th Report](#)

10. What kind of outcomes and impact are these plans expected to result in?

Ensure full transparency and accountability within the fisheries sub-sector.

10. Summarise the MSG's efforts to strengthen the impact of EITI implementation in the period under review, including any actions to extend the detail and scope of EITI reporting or increase engagement with stakeholders. The MSG is encouraged to document how it has taken gender considerations and inclusiveness into account.

Approved the development of both the Beneficial ownership registrar and updating of the mainstreaming feasibility study as well as commissioning the review updating of the LEITI Communications Strategy to increase stakeholder's engagement.

Approved plans for strengthening the various constituencies of the MSG capacity building for engaging the broader constituencies and approved the FLEX reporting framework to develop the 12th EITI report.

LEITI Secretariat, with approval from the MSG conducting a gender mainstreaming workshop with women from a wide range of civil society organizations to ensure women's participation in the EITI process in Liberia. Additionally, LEITI recently updated its communication strategy to address gender mainstreaming.

- [Report on Gender Mainstreaming Workshop](#)
- [leiti-empowers-women-stakeholders-better-natural-resource-governance](#)

- [Facebook: Gender Mainstreaming Post](#)
- [LEITI's Updated Communication Strategy](#)

LEITI Secretariat, by the approval of the MSG, held a dialogue with students of the Liberia CSOs Anti- Corruption Coalition

- [LEITI Collaborates with LACC and FLY on Youth Anti-graft Activities](#)
- [Supports Liberian Youth on Natural Resource Engagement](#)
- [LEITI Celebrates Anti-Corruption Day](#)
- Further, LEITI provides timely information to the public through its timely reporting. It also distributes summary reports throughout Liberia to ensure that citizens are duly informed about events in the covered sectors.
- As a means of embedding the EITI process in Liberia's education system, the LEITI, with support from the German Government, established the Extractive Club (E-Club)-a flagship program for young high school students on the governance of the Country's natural resources. The program affected more than 300 students across fifteen Montserrado and Margibi Counties schools. A full report on this activity is found on the LEITI website, while key highlights of some activities are found on the institution's Facebook page:
- [E-Club 2017 Final Project Report](#)
- Media engagements are also vital components of LEITI's dissemination exercises. In rural Liberia, especially hard to reach or inaccessible terrains, community radio stations inform the EITI process. The following link shows LEITI's Communications and Outreach Officer in Bong County, central Liberia explaining the findings of one of the reports on a phoned-in talk.
- The LEITI Secretariat has erected billboards throughout Liberia with targeted messages to enhance public awareness and outreach.
- The Secretariat is reaching out to key stakeholders, including the American Embassy and USAID.

[LEITI Meeting with USAID Mission Director](#)

[LEITI Meeting with Mr. Wenger from the US Embassy](#)

Media Engagement is a critical part of the EITI process in Liberia. The LEITI has used the traditional media in Liberia for the dissemination of key activities and programs over the years. The media has also been used to gauge the impact of the process in Liberia. Recently, one of the media outlets following the LEITI, FrontPage Africa, evaluated integrity institutions in the Country, including LEITI. In its scope of the evaluation, the LEITI got a score of "B" after a review and confirmation of LEITI's activities from January to December 2021.

[Media Evaluation of Integrity Institutions](#)

Furthermore, the LEITI Secretariat has an upgraded website so the public can easily assess for information gathering.

[LEITI refurbished Website](#)

Part II: Public debate

Open data (Requirement 7.2)

11. Open data policy and disclosures

<p>Provide a link to the open data policy agreed by the MSG (Requirement 7.2.a)</p>	<p><i>Section 4. d.e of the LEITI Act 2009 grants the authority to promptly publish reports of all audits, investigations, and/or reconciliations conducted pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.1(c) and Section 4.1(d) hereof, and to disseminate such published reports through widely accessible media.</i></p> <p><i>LEITI MSG has adopted a resolution on Open Data on December 8, 2021. Further, Liberia operates a Data Sharing Policy to which LEITI signed up In October 2011.</i></p>
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	<p>Liberia Open Data Policy</p> <p>Liberia Data Sharing Policy</p> <p>MSG Resolution Page 1</p> <p>MSG Resolution Page 2</p>
<p>Is EITI data available in open data format and publicized? (Requirement 7.2.b)</p>	<p><i>[EITI data refers to disclosures within the scope of the EITI Standard, including the tables, charts, and figures from EITI reports.]</i></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Summary Data Sheet 12 EITI Report</p>
<p>Has the MSG identified gaps in the availability of EITI data in an open format? If yes, what kind of gaps? (Requirement 7.2.b)</p>	<p>Yes, the MSG has recognized that Open Data may not be meaningful in areas with less access to the internet. To address this challenge, LEITI, during its dissemination engagements, provides summary data to citizens in places with less connectivity.</p>
<p>Has the MSG undertaken efforts to improve data availability in an open format? If yes, please describe these. (Requirement 7.2.b)</p>	<p>The LEITI MSG is a partner to the Liberian Open Government Partnership program and makes sure all of its data are operable. The policy covers anti-corruption, gender, digital governance, civic space, justice, education, extractive industries, and health.</p> <p>Liberia Data Sharing Policy</p> <p>Recently, the MSG refurbished the LEITI website to support this initiative.</p>
<p>Have summary data files been completed for each fiscal year for which data has been disclosed? (Requirement 7.2.c)</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p><i>What systematically disclosed data in the scope of EITI disclosures is machine-readable and interoperable? (Requirement 7.2.d)</i></p>	<p>The Ministry of Mines and Energy cadastre/license portal includes machine-readable data on licenses.</p> <p>Further, the Liberia Business Registry operators' names and contact information in the extractive sectors.</p> <p>The LEITI Secretariat publishes a machine-readable record of all reporting agencies in an open-data format.</p> <p>Summary Data Sheet</p>
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Outreach and communications (Requirement 7.1)

12. Describe the MSG's efforts in the period under review to ensure that information published about the extractive sector is understandable and available in appropriate languages.

<p>The LEITI MSG has strived for data accuracy and comprehensibility throughout its publications: EITI reports, Annual Progress Reports, or Contract Matrix. In the recent 10th and 11th EITI reports, the IA, under data comprehensiveness on page 19, states: We concluded the final assessment of the overall comprehensiveness of reconciled financial data from the companies, SOEs, and government agencies.</p> <p>During the period under review, the LEITI Secretariat summarized and disseminated the 9th, 10th, and 11th EITI reports throughout the Country.</p> <p>LEITI Summary Report- 2020</p> <p>Dissemination of the 9th, 10th, and 11th summary reports</p>

13. Describe examples of the use of EITI data.

[Document instances of the use of EITI data in various formats, whether from MSG members or any stakeholders. Examples of types of EITI data use could include:

[Contract Matrix and SDF dissemination-Phase 1](#)

[Contract Matrix and SDF dissemination- phase 1](#)

[Contract Matrix and SDF dissemination- phase 1 video](#)

14. Provide information about outreach events to spread awareness of and facilitate dialogue about the governance of extractive resources, building on EITI disclosures.

Event name	Brief description of the event	Date	Location	Organizer	Number and type of attendees	Links to further information
Dissemination of LEITI's 9 th , 10 th , and 11 th Report	Town Hall meetings with citizens to present findings of the 9 th , 10 th , and 11 th summary reports	September 12, 2021,	Cape Mount, Bomi, and Gparpolu Counties	LEITI	1750(various locations)	<u>Dissemination of 9th, 10th and 11th report</u>
Commemoration of Anti-	Awareness creation around the EITI summary	December 17, 2020	Accountability Lab, Monrovia	LEITI, FLY and LCAAC	150	<u>Commemoration of Anti-Corruption Day</u>

Corruption Day	report and reporting process					
Commemoration of Anti-Corruption Day	Awareness creation around the EITI summary report and reporting process	December 15, 2020	Accountability Lab, Monrovia	LEITI, FLY and LCAAC	150	Commemoration of Anti-Corruption Day

15. Describe the MSG efforts in the period under review to consider access challenges and information needs of data users, including different genders and subgroups of citizens.

During the period under review, the MSG mandated the LEITI to refurbish its Website to open data format after complaints that most of the information stored on the Website, especially those about the various sectors, were not uploaded in open data format.

[Summary Data Template 12th Report](#)

[Gender Mainstreaming Workshop](#)

[LEITI Communications Strategy 2021 – 2023.](#)

The MSG also oversaw the domestication of the 9th and combined 10th and 11th reports into easy-to-read formats known as summary reports for nationwide dissemination.

This was followed by a national dissemination exercise of the abridged contract matrix and County Social Development Funds CSDF disclosures in 2017. The CSDF disclosure covered the period from 2009 to 2017 and included all extractive companies across the four sectors - agriculture, mining, forestry, and oil and gas.

An updated Facebook page [LEITI Facebook Page](#) has also been used to engage stakeholders, especially the ordinary citizens, in this internet-savvy revolution.

16. Describe other efforts by the MSG in the period under review to ensure that information is widely accessible and distributed.

During the period under review, the LEITI had produced summary reports of the 9th and combined 10th and 11th reports and combined 2017/18 Annual progress reports. – 12th report.

The MSG also updated its Website, recruited a communications officer, disseminated the 9th, 10th, and 11th Summary reports, engaged the youth, and hosted radio appearances.

Notably, the MSG restructured the Secretariat to ensure the effective implementation of its programs.

2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 work plans are all hosted on the LEITI website.

17. How could the MSG improve the accessibility and distribution of information, considering the needs of different subgroups of citizens?

The MSG sees improved information accessibility and distribution across the Country as a paramount concern and has sponsored the review of its communication strategy to address these concerns adequately.

From the Communication Strategy, the MSG could shift from the traditional person to person, to digital out, using the new media-social media and zoom conferences.

Part III: Sustainability and effectiveness

18. The MSG is requested to present any additional information and evidence related to the indicators for assessing the sustainability and effectiveness of EITI implementation.

The EITI Board will assign each indicator 0, 0.5, or 1 points, which will be added to the Country's overall score. The assessment of performance on the hands will draw on information provided by the MSG, publicly available sources, stakeholder consultations, and disclosures by the implementing Country and companies. Please see the EITI Validation Guide for further information about how performance on these indicators will be assessed.

- I. EITI implementation addresses nationally relevant extractive sector governance challenges, and this indicator also recognizes efforts beyond the EITI Standard.

E club-established to embed the EITI in the Country's education sector; helping young people understand natural resource governance positively shaping their thinking around transparent and accountable management of the sector and their role in the process.

Agriculture Sector

National Bureau of Concession

Streamlined Ministry of Mines Energy to remove the lands-The focus of the Ministry is more on the extractive industries now.

Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority – took over the regulatory role from the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL). NOCAL is now an operator

Forestry Sector

[Ministry of Agriculture Website](#)

[National Bureau of Concession Act](#)

[Ministry of Mines and Energy](#)

[Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority Website](#)

[Forestry Development Authority Website](#)

- II. Extractive sector data is disclosed systematically through routine Government and corporate reporting.

Government entities lack the needed capacity for systematic data enhancement, and these are among key issues that the mainstreaming activity is expected to address. However, here are some examples of where MDAs and companies have systematically disclosed extractives data:

- III. There is an enabling environment for citizen participation in extractive sector governance, including participation by affected communities.

Despite the challenges experienced in the past, the environment for citizen participation in extractives governance has improved considerably in recent years. In the period under review, there is no known case of restriction of citizen participation. CSOs and the media freely carry out their various activities related to extractives governance advocacy without fear or intimidation.

During the period under review, the MSG held extensive citizens engagement and town hall meetings to disseminate reports, Contract matrix, and County Social Development Funds across the Country, including conflict-sensitive areas.

- IV. Extractive sector data is accessible and used for analysis, research, and advocacy.

The LEITI website has been refurbished to enhance that. <https://www.leiti.org.lr/>

There are examples of the use of extractives data for analysis, research, and advocacy, including the following examples:

- V. EITI has informed changes in extractive sector policies or practices.

True, the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure and Mainstreaming are key examples of these changes with extensive progress towards achieving a beneficial ownership registry for the Country. An assessment has been done in this regard: [Beneficial](#)

[Ownership Assessment Report](#). Through the efforts on beneficial ownership reporting, LEITI has motivated other government agencies to realize the significance of BO transparency and act upon improving BO reporting in Liberia. For instance, LRA has procured software for BO reporting and is collaborating with LEITI and the LBR to establish a BO register for Liberia.

Part IV: Stakeholder feedback and MSG approval

19. Describe opportunities for stakeholders beyond MSG members to give feedback on the EITI process, including the EITI work plan.

The setting up of a vibrant Facebook page [LEITI Facebook Page](#) and the employment of 15 focal persons across the 15 political subdivisions of the Country are opportunities for the generation of feedback from the wider public.

20. Describe how any feedback from stakeholders beyond MSG members has been considered in reviewing the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation.

Feedbacks from consultative town hall meetings with the wider Liberian public subsequently inform the development of the LEITI Workplan.

[Newsletter](#)

21. Date of MSG approval of this submission and information on how the public can access it, e.g., link to national EITI website.

December 17, 2021

