



Virtual Meeting of National Focal Points of African LDCs on Response to COVID-19 and Way Forward

By

J. Wellington Barchue, I.

Liberia LDC National Focal Point

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Outline

Liberia response to COVID-19

What work and why

Measures taken to protect livelihood and businesses

Impact of COVID-19 on IPOA & SDGs

Recovery plans developed

Constraints in enhancing resilience and achieving recovery

Way forward for LDCs

Liberia's response to COVID-19

- ❑ Liberia established a Special Presidential Advisory Committee on COVID-19
 - ❖ identify logistical requirement for rapid identification, management of cases;
 - ❖ limit human-to-human transmission and minimize the impact
- ❑ On March 16, 2020 Liberia confirmed its first positive case
 - ❖ The Government trained 5,000 contact tracers and established a call center and a hotline
- ❑ A second layer, an Incidence Management System was established to oversee the technical/operational preparedness in the event of an outbreak of the virus
- ❑ On March 21, the Government declared a state of emergency
- ❑ As at June 9, 2020 recorded about 383 confirmed cases, 199 recoveries and 31 deaths

What work and why

- Establishment of two committees to make early preparation to manage the virus
 - ❖ These committees brought together stakeholders from diverse background to formulate strategies to confront the virus
- Declaration of a state of emergency without a full lockdown
 - ❖ It allows the public to move out in search of their livelihood while observing the health protocols
 - ❖ It allows key public and private institutions to operate
 - ❖ It also allows us to restrict border entry, close schools and ban gatherings of more than 10 people

Measures to protect livelihood and businesses

- ❑ To protect livelihood
 - ❖ Government declares a state of emergency instead of a full lockdown
 - ❖ The Government allocated funds to provide food for vulnerable population
 - ❖ Gov't removed surcharge from COVID-19 related commodities (hand sanitizers, chlorine, and rice sent well-meaning Liberians for people affected by the travel restrictions)
- ❑ To keep businesses afloat
 - ❖ Gov't negotiated with commercial banks to reschedule businesses loans
 - ❖ Gov't is in the process of providing loans support to small businesses to enable them meet up with their obligations

Impact of COVID-19 on IPOA & SDGs & Government Recovery Plans

□ COVID-19

- ❖ Hindering Government ability to generate revenue to implement its development plan, PAPD (IPOA and SDGs)
- ❖ Affecting donor partners ability to provide aid as committed
- ❖ Left most businesses closed

□ Government Recovery Plans

- ❖ Post-COVID Interim Recovery Plan
 - ❖ To strengthen the health system to make it resilient
- ❖ Economic Recovery Plan
 - ❖ To provide critical support to sectors dealing with and affected by the pandemic and to facilitate economic recovery
- ❖ Government is undertaking a review of its medium term development plan in the context of COVID-19

Inadequacies and constraints in enhancing resilience and achieving strong recovery

❑ Limited infrastructure:

- ❖ limited transportation infrastructure in terms of access to electricity, water and sanitation and the use of ICT. According to WB 1994, 1% increase in infrastructure leads to 1% growth in GDP

❑ Inadequate investment in and under-utilization of existing human capital . For example,

- ❖ More than 95 percent of our farmers are still depending on traditional methods of farming (using hoes, machetes, and rain-fed irrigation)
- ❖ Inability to utilize opportunities that ICT brings to the global economy because of low human capital

Inadequacies and constraints in enhancing resilience and achieving strong recovery cont.

- ❑ Inability to diversify our economy (susceptible to shock in the international market)
 - ❖ For example, reduction in the price of our major export commodities (rubber and iron ore) affected the Government's ability to generate projected revenue
- ❑ Limited investment in research and development
 - ❖ Inhibited us to transition from a resource-based economy to knowledge-based

Way forward for LDCs

- ❑ Trade is an important catalyst for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction
- ❑ Without fair trade sustainable development will remain a mirage in most LDCs
- ❑ Going forward developed countries should reform trade rules for LDCs to engage in fair trade instead of free trade
 - ❖ Free trade has only benefitted multinational companies and firms from developed nations and not LDCs
- ❑ Development partners should direct some of their aid towards building LDCs capacity in value chain creation them competitive

Way forward for LDCs cont.

- ❑ LDCs must increase investment in infrastructure, human capital, research and development and diversify their economies to make them competitive

Thank you.