

	(methodology for tagging under development)			
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<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 (article, item): BGUE-B2023-14.020120-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 28 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution is EUR 28 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management through international organisations: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Direct Management through grants			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Liberia's population was estimated to be 5 million in 2020, with forecasts predicting 6.4 million in 2030. In 2020, 40% of the population was under the age of 15 and population growth is not projected to decrease. As a result, pressure on the education system and the labour market in Liberia are extremely high. The global commodity price crisis, and combined effects of the Ebola crisis and COVID-19 pandemic, have devastated the Liberian economy and worsened youth's fragility problems.

Liberian youth suffer from high unemployment, underemployment and vulnerable employment rates. A socially and economically marginalised youth poses serious risks to national security, social cohesion and stability. Efforts to improve youth's employability are constrained by a deficient Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. Overall, the Liberian TVET sector faces serious shortcomings in terms of quality and relevance, access and equity, funding and governance, including outdated and limited equipment; lack of adequately trained and incentivised trainers and administrators; lack of an accreditation system and standardised curricula; weak linkages between TVET and the productive sectors of the economy; low management capacity and central and local levels; lack of gender sensitive measures; lack of coordination between TVET stakeholders; lack of defined pathways into and from TVET; and insufficient funding.

The proposed Action seeks to step up EU support to Liberian youth, to ensure they can acquire relevant skills and access decent and quality jobs through vocational and technical training. The proposed action builds on the results of EU's 'Youth Rising' project, designed to strengthen the Liberian TVET sector in its capacity to deliver equitable and gender-balanced access to high quality and demand-driven TVET in seven counties (six supported by the EU and one by the Government of Sweden).

The second phase of the 'Youth Rising' project will replicate the action in the remaining 8 counties. The proposed intervention will complement capacity development support at the central and Vocational Training Centre levels and strengthen links with the private sector. In addition, the intervention will address equity and inclusiveness issues in hard-to-reach counties, with a focus on gender, vulnerable youth, youth with disabilities, and youth at risk. The intervention will improve access to TVET in all counties.

The proposed Action reflects the EU's political objectives defined in the New European Consensus on Development¹. It will enhance youth's employability and Vocational Education and Training (VET) alignment to private sector needs. The Action proposes measures to address gender equity in access to TVET and female paid employment, thus contributing to the 2021-2025 EU Gender Action Plan². It also promotes the engagement of young people as strategic partners, supporting their empowerment and participation to contribute to sustainable development, equality and peace. Which aligned with the Youth Action Plan in EU External Action (2022-2027)³.

¹ OJ C 210 of 30.6.2017.

² SWD(2020) 284 final.

³ JOIN(2022) 53 final.