1. Background

The 2019 Joint Sector Review (JSR) is a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Education (MoE), Republic of Liberia, and its education development partners (EDPs) to comprehensively assess progress against the Getting to Best Education Sector Plan (G2B ESP), Pillar 1 targets of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal-4 (SDG-4), and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2016-2025 goal.

The 2019 Joint Education Sector Review will build on the last JESR, which brought together over 200 participants representing a diverse cadre of stakeholders from the 5 to 9 of November 2018. The latter assessed the overall implementation progress against the Implementation Plan of the MoE’s 5-Years 2017-2021 Operational Plan. At the end of the 2018 JESR, there was a joint declaration by all education partners. The declaration consummated the outcome of the entire review process and established as follows:

- Education achievements were low and unacceptable;
- Education has not been given the requisite support, hence, the need for Government to make progressive investment, and
- Commitment from government and partners to fully implement the Operational Plan.
- That there be a proper clean-up process of the Teachers’ payroll in order to save money for those volunteer and supplementary qualified teachers that need to be employed;
- Improve the Monitoring and Evaluation Division of MoE in order to work closely with partners who are carrying out activities to improve the sector;
- There should be coordination, collaboration and cooperation between the MoE, Education NGO Forum, and Partners in order to improve the sector;
• That the County Education Officers and County School Boards form part of the Education Sector Development Committee membership since they have oversight over the day-to-day activities of the schools;

• That there be internal collaboration with various bureaus to avoid duplication of activities with partners;

• That the accreditation and issuance of license to teachers be enforced to improve the quality of service delivery within the sector and strengthen the performance and learning outcomes;

• That MOE considers greater involvement of communities, PTAs and partners to improve access to quality education and productivity in the sector;

• That EMIS and by extension the bureau of planning is given the necessary support and capacity so that there can always be a quality real-time data within the education sector;

• That consideration be given to the training of Lab Technicians and Science teachers to improve the quality delivery in the sciences;

• Strengthen and scale up the delivery of ECE C-Certificate program at the TTIs;

• That MoE use the outcome of the JESR as a working document for the development of the third year operational plan and align with the PAPD Priorities;

• That there be a co-leveraging of commitment and support by GoL and partners to service funding gaps for major priorities within the sector;

• That the training of school principals by education service delivery partners should be need- and result-based so as to strengthen the system;

• That consideration be given to building network amongst all TVET delivery partners to harmonize TVET curriculum and programming;

• In an effort to decentralize decision making process at the county level, there is a need to make functional and sustain all County School Boards so as to enhance effective coordination and collaboration in the achievement of the sector’s overarching goal; and
• That there should be a last-mile delivery of all teaching and learning materials provided by both partners and government at the school community level so as to ensure availability of materials and effective classroom delivery of teaching\(^1\).

In view of these recommendations, the Ministry of Education recognized the need to update the Getting to Best Education Sector Plan (G2B-ESP), to bring it in alignment with emerging cardinal recommendations of the 2018 Education Summit Declaration and the priorities for education as enshrined in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). The effort will further address issues around school infrastructure readiness, teacher quality improvement, improvement in student pass rate in the West African Senior Secondary Exam (WASSCE) and improved learning outcomes.

Additionally, the MoE begun the implementation of a series of strategic, evidence-based, and innovative programs to measurably improve the quality and relevance of teaching and learning for all students by June 2021 consistent with the updated operational plan that was developed following the 2018 JESR.

2. The Scope of the JESR 2019

The 2019 JESR will be a holistic sector analysis focusing on early childhood through tertiary Education. In collaboration with the Education Development Partners (EDPs), the MoE will assess progress against the G2B ESP targets and indicators, the Pillar 1education targets of the PAPD, the goals of the 2030 SDG-4, the goal of the CESA 2016-2025, and other reforms instituted during the last two (2) years.

3. Project Summary

3.1. Overall objective

I. OBJECTIVES

The Joint Education Sector Review will be both backward and forward looking:

**Backward looking**, it will assess progress in the on-going fiscal year by looking at

i. Implementation progress against planned activities and targets in the PAPD, the G2B-ESP and its operational plan

\(^1\) 2018 JOINT EDUCATION SECTOR REVIEW FOR 2016/17 AND 2017/18 REPORT
ii. (Implementation of recommendations by the previous JSR)

iii. Progress on key sector indicators as well as key reforms over the last years to facilitate discussion around relevance and recommendations

iv. Counties with high results in learning, Access, Equity and Quality and provide rewards

Forward looking, it will:

i. Review the operational plan for fiscal year 2018/2019

ii. Assess the financing arrangements, availability, government and partners commitment and funding gaps for key components of the plan

iii. Review implementation modalities, coordination and harmonization and adapt strategies for improved coordination and implementation of the operational plan

iv. Assess the performance and achievement of partners in the sector against the targets and indicators set forth in the G2B-ESP and the PAPD.

v. Assess the education financing modalities proposed in the G2B-ESP and define new strategies to raise additional support for education

vi. Invite presentations, research findings from partners, higher education and research institutions, and the MoE to share insights and recommendation that address key challenges faced by the Liberia education system

vii. Facilitate the identification of key priorities within the Education Summit report, the PAPD and the last JESR declaration of intent for subsequent update of the G2B-ESP

The JESR will present the platform for a comprehensive analysis of the plans, stakeholder consultations, identification of major G2B-ESP activities to avoid duplication and provide recommendations for improved, coordination and harmonization.

3.2. Expected output
Prior to the main event of the JESR, the MoE technical team in consultation with its different stakeholders will launch series of activities that will lead to the development of a comprehensive Performance Report. Various members from the technical team will work with all MoE bureaus and division Leads, Implementing Partners, and MoE decentralized staff at the county level to solicit and measure the achievements and progress made against the planned, and activities implemented as per the G2B-ESP Operational Plan. At the end of the exercise, the following are expected:

- Achievement data on planned activities per OP for each bureau and division collected, coalesced, analysed, and quantified
- Progress report from IPs as per sector intervention collected, coalesced, analysed, and quantified
- Achievement results as per individual county implementation activities collected, coalesced, analysed and quantified
- Comprehensive Performance Report on the G2B-ESP and PAPD targets produced and available for SMT’s review and approval

3.3. Expected outcomes

At the end of the JESR, a joint communiqué will be issued by the Ministry and partners. Additionally, a report summarizing the events and activities during the JESR with clear recommendations on each thematic area with identified challenges will be written. The findings and recommendations will inform the finalization of the operational plan. In short, the outputs are:

- Aide Memoire (including sector Executive Summaries as an annex) detailing main conclusions, consensus and recommendations to inform ESP update
- Joint GoL-EDP Press Release
- Final JESR report

At the level of the (Technical Working Groups) TWGs and Counties, each working group, using the ESP indicator and relevant PAPD and SDGs indicators, will provide reports components and activates with in the ESP:

- Current Status on implementation through a power point presentation not more than eight slides for TWGs and five slides for Counties
✓ Not more than five sheets of details of the presentation with key recommendations will be allowed
✓ TWGs will also propose key indicators and targets for each recommended actions
✓ JESR secretariat will develop the Annual performance report for 2018/19 fiscal year which cover 2019/2019 data, activities and financial reports to form part of the package to be shared with the partners in advance to the main event.

3.4. Methodology /Approach

The approach to the JESR is three-fold, central level consultation, mini JESR at the county level, and the Annual Review. At the county level, each County will host two days of a mini JESR to engage partners and stakeholders at the local level to discuss the PAPD and the G2B-ESP and its implementation during the fiscal year in review. The engagement will cover the School Quality Assessment Framework implementation, the review of the established map for partner’s intervention at the County level and the review of the county plan against the targets in the G2B-ESP and the PAPD. The standard reporting template, the slides for presentation at the JESR and county performance report will be finalized at the mini JESR and prepared well in advance to the event. EDP will be encouraged to work with the County Education staff to have regular meeting to discuss these issues. The Partners along with County administration (CEOs and DEOs) will draft a presentation on these elements and indicate progress against the implementation of the G2B-ESP with not more than 5 slides. A staff from the department of planning will facilitate each County session. Additionally, a short standard reporting template will be completed by each County to provide more details on the power point slides.

At the central level, technical Working Groups (TWGs) comprised of MOE and Education Development Partners EDP/IP representatives will be formed to work across seven thematic areas namely: Higher Education, Governance and Management, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET, STEM & Inclusive Education), Teacher Education and Management, Early Childhood Education, Student Personnel Service and Basic & Secondary Education (curriculum and assessment and out of school kids).
Each TWG will be co-chaired by the Bureau that supervises the implementation of the thematic areas and one EDP/IP representative who has a program focus or interest in that Thematic Area. Membership will be based on interested EDP/IPS selecting TWG affiliation based upon identified areas of expertise or interventions. EDP/IP representatives from the same organization can work across multiple TWGs. TWG sizes should not exceed 7 persons maximum.

Each TWG should assess progress against the G2B-ESP and the PAPD targets based on implementation reports for each thematic area against the G2B-ESP and the PAPD using data from EMIS and reports on key indicators. Each TWG will develop a “three-page” maximum Executive Summary and PowerPoint presentation (max. 8 slides) to explain their findings and recommendations, in advance of the JESR. In conducting their analysis, the TWGs should seek to answer three questions:

1. What are the progresses against key indicators in the ESP?
2. What are the barriers to achievement?
3. What interventions are needed to improvement implementation in Year two

Additionally, TWGs have the option to develop a “one-page” Executive Summary on a cross-cutting or critical emerging issue identified as a sector priority for presentation at a special session on the agenda. Cross cutting issues may include social protection, WASH, inclusive education, teacher training, gender and skills development. Summarized findings across TWGs will be collated and presented for discussion at the annual review. Advance preparation of analyses during plenary sessions affords time to collectively address issues and brainstorm resolutions and/or policy needs during the JESR.

At the Annual Review, the event will be guiding by a well thought through agenda. The day one will include the opening section where the Minister of Education will provide a summary report of the sector for the year under review. The report will be followed by a key note address by an education stakeholder who will speak on the theme of the event. Afterward, in the second half of the day, all Counties will make their presentations with counties being divided into two groups. The groups following their presentation will form a panel for question and answer in the plenary. Recommendations for the effective achievement of the activities and as well as changes to the ESP will be highlighted for incorporation in the Aide Memoire. The remaining days of the event will invite a key note address from education stakeholder with expertise in the thematic area that will be covered during that day. The secretariat will collate relevance indicators including learning assessment on each County Progress against Access, Equity, Quality to inform the selection of the best performing counties. This will be followed by plenary session to discuss emerging issues and challenges identified during the presentations and the presentations from the Department of Planning.
Most performing Counties will receive certificate of performance and recognition as well as five scholarship slots for graduate studies in Liberia while the second and third will also receive certificates of recognition and two scholarship slots each. There will be group work per thematic areas and the counties to plan for the next fiscal year. A prepared template for the planning exercise that will inform the operational plan for 2019/20 will be the guide for the group. Following the group work, a presentation of the findings of the group will be done in plenary. This will follow a key stakeholders meeting to discuss education financing and donor coordination to support the implementation of the operational plan and the ESP. The event will be climaxed with the signing of The Aide Memoire. The Aide Memoire will include the agreed changes to the G2B-ESP, other missing baselines, outputs and indicators that would fee into the updated ESP 3, and 2020-2021 Operational Plan.

3.5. Participants

The JESR will carefully solicit representation from a diverse cadre of stakeholders, to include:

- **Government of Liberia (GoL):** Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MoFDP), and Ministry of Gender & Development (MoGD), Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MHSW), Ministry of Youth & Sports (MoYS), Internal Affairs & Justice, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of States for Presidential Affair, LISGIS

- **Institutions of Higher Learning & Agencies:** NCHE, Universities & local Community Colleges, Association of Liberia Universities (ALU) etc.

- **EDPs:** Refers to bilateral aid agencies, multilateral institutions, international nongovernmental organizations and private foundations that provide financial resources for the development of the education sector in Liberia including: USAID, EU, World Bank, GPE, AU, ECOWAS, African Development Bank, Swedish Embassy, Chinese Embassy, German Embassy, UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP etc.)

- **IPs:** Refer to international and national nongovernmental organizations implementing education programs in Liberia.

- **Civil Society Partners:** Refer to civil society groups some level of monitoring and advocacy in the sector

- **Private Sector:** Refers to concession companies, private school systems including faith based institutions

- **Media**

3.6. Logistic /Venue
The JESR will be hosted in Ganta, Nimba County from 18-22 of November of 2019 under the theme: “Restoring the Education Sector for quality outcomes through collective efforts and innovation”. The Ministry of Education will be responsible for communication around the event hall, possible lodging places, transport arrangements and document printing facilitation. Communication around the JESR and sector results will consider the print, electronic and social media. Disseminating sector results is crucial for public awareness and support.

3.7. Main Activities
- TWGs weekly meetings
- County Stakeholders Meetings
- ESDC meetings
- LEG Meetings
- Joint Education Sector Review Meetings

Steering Committee:
A steering committee of the JESR will include:
The Minister of Education as Chair, the Deputy Minister of Planning as Co-Chair, Deputy Minister of Instruction and Administration as members, including key Development Partners, (USAID, UNICEF, World Bank and EU) as member. The role of the steering committee will be to provide oversight support to the planning and implementation of the JESR and to ensure that necessary funding is secured for the implementation of the JESR. The committee will also oversight the management of the event and conduct a meeting to finalize the aide memoire for signature at the event.

Technical Working Team
The Technical Working Team (TWT) will be chaired by the Assistant Minister of Planning and co-chaired by the Assistant Minister of Fiscal Affairs and Human Resources with all other Bureau Heads and PDT Coordinator of the G2B project as members. The TWT will engage partners and donors for the necessary funding of the JESR and serve as the liaison between the Steering Committee and the Technical Working-Sub team and donors and development partners. The team will also work with its members to ensure compliance to the organization of the event. The team will supervise a technical working sub-team which will be led by the Director of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and co-chair by the Evaluation Specialist of the Division of the Policy, Appraisal and Evaluation. This sub-team will be the coordinating and implementation unit for the organization of the JESR and to ensure that the JESR guideline is followed. The team will comprise of the key Directors of the Bureau of Planning including, EMIS, ODI Fellow at the MOE, EDU, and all other relevant Directors of the Bureaus in the MOE and Higher Commission on Education. The committee will be responsible to gather data on the achievement of targets and activities in the 2018/19 operational plan and the ESP. The team will use the data to develop the performance report of the sector covering the period under review. Other fundamental functions of the sub-team will be to:
- Develop schedules and road map for the TWG
- Regularly meet with Bureaus and divisions to gather relevant data on performance, achievement of targets and indicators
- Prepare the presentation and reporting templates for the JESR TWG and the counties
- Identify speakers and facilitators of the main event of the JESR
- Develop the JESR agenda/ and other media materials including banners, and letter of invitation, JESR booklets
- Write the Annual Implementation/Performance Report 2018-2019 (collated from TWG findings and recommendations
- Conduct the mini JESR across the counties
- Write the aide memoire at the end of the JESR
- Write the JESR report
- Lead the update of the ESP
- Develop the 2019/2020 Operational Plan

3.8. Budget

The budget includes cost associated with both County engagement and the actual review meeting. The total cost is One hundred nine four thousand, three hundred sixty five dollars, fifty cent United States dollars ($194,365.50)

Attached is the Budget in the excel File.