Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 15-Jan-2019 | Report No: PIDISDSA26204

Jan 10, 2019 Page 1 of 14

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Liberia	Project ID P169031	Project Name Liberia Urban Water Project Additional Financing	Parent Project ID (if any) P155947
Parent Project Name Liberia Urban Water Supply Project	Region AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 28-Jan-2019	Estimated Board Date 15-Mar-2019
Practice Area (Lead) Water	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Liberia	Implementing Agency Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The project development objective (PDO) is to increase access to piped water supply services in the project area in Monrovia and improve the operational efficiency of LWSC.

Components

Infrastructure Improvements Capacity Building

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	10.00
Total Financing	10.00
of which IBRD/IDA	10.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	10.00
IDA Credit	10.00

Jan 10, 2019 Page 2 of 14



Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Liberia is a fragile state and remains among the world's poorest. The country is recovering from two devastating civil wars which severely disrupted the economy and inflicted a toll on the poor. Since the end of the second civil war in 2003, Liberia has been striving to overcome its multiple challenges and consolidate peace and stability. Furthermore, with the return to democracy in 2006, the country has tried to create an ideal environment for long-term reconstruction. Three peaceful elections have been held, debt relief has been negotiated, broad price stability has been achieved, and per capita gross domestic product (GDP) per capita grew by 3 percent between 2003 and 2013. Despite its abundant natural resources and favorable geographic location, the per capita GDP remains far below the average in Sub-Saharan Africa, and leaves Liberia among the world's poorest countries. Similarly, while its Human Development Index has improved, Liberia ranks 181st out of 189 countries by the United Nations Development Programme.

The majority of Liberia's 4.7 million people lives below the poverty line of US\$1.90 per day. The poverty rate measured at the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day in purchasing-power-parity terms stood at 38.6 percent in 2014, while the poverty rate measured at the national poverty line exceeded 50 percent in 2016, with rates ranging from 71.6 percent in rural areas to 31.5 percent in urban centers. The population is becoming increasingly urban with 50 percent living in cities in 2015. The capital Monrovia has attracted more people in search of employment, as well as displaced persons seeking refuge from conflict and instability. Unplanned urbanization has resulted in the proliferation of informal settlements. A large part of Monrovia's population lives in overcrowded, underserviced slums, vulnerable to socioeconomic ills and disease.

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak highlighted the continued vulnerability of Liberian society and institutions. The disease infected over 10,000 Liberians and claimed about 5,000 lives. The human impact was aggravated by economic repercussions. The World Bank termed the economic impact on as Liberia 'crippling' and estimated forgone national income at US\$240 million in 2015, over ten percent of its GDP. After a decade of average annual GDP per capita growth of 3.5 percent, EVD caused a contraction of less than 1 percent over the 2014-2015 period. The Government of Liberia (GoL) has prepared an Economic Stabilization and Recovery Plan (ESRP) in response to the EVD epidemic. The ESRP outlines a broad program of measures and investments to overcome the negative impacts of EVD. In particular, the ESRP

Jan 10, 2019 Page 3 of 14

strongly emphasizes the "urgent need to address the structural deficiencies in the service delivery systems in the water and sanitation sector that the EVD epidemic highlighted." The additional financing (AF) is a key step toward achieving this goal.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Large sections of Liberia's population are dangerously exposed to unsafe water and sanitation. People with access to improved sanitation remains below 17 percent and almost half of the population practice open defecation (WHO and UNICEF, 2015). Access to improved water sources has improved, but less than three percent of Liberians benefit from piped water. Even in the capital city, an estimated 80 percent of the population relies on point sources such as hand-dug wells which may be 'improved' in a technical sense but unsuitable in dense urban environments. A 2011 water quality study in Monrovia found the majority of 'improved' wells to be contaminated and unsafe to drink from (UHL and Associates, 2011). The 2012 Economics of Sanitation initiative estimated that Liberia loses US\$17.5 million annually to negative effects of poor sanitation alone (World Bank 2012). Expanding safe piped water, especially in urban areas, is thus a critical priority.

Diseases related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) remain common due to the lack of access to safe water and sanitation. Diarrhea is widespread among children, with 22 percent of under-five-year-olds suffering from diarrhea in the two weeks before surveying, a value higher than in Haiti or the Democratic Republic of Congo and more than twice the rate in India (Demographic and Health Survey 2013). Urban children are affected almost as often (20.1 percent) as their rural counterparts (23.8 percent). Cholera remains endemic, with 60 registered cases in 2014 (UNICEF 2015). Moreover, "lack of access to safe water [and] proper hygiene" also "contributed to the propagation of the [Ebola] virus" and was even a 'critical factor' in schools, as a report on Recovering from the Ebola Crisis highlighted (UN, World Bank, EU, AfDB, 2015). The report went on to recommend improving "access in underserved, urban poor communities and areas affected by epidemics...by expanding the distribution network and installing household connections".

Liberia's WASH sector has become better organized, but institutional gaps remain. Liberia published its WASH policy in 2009, laid out institutional reforms in the 2011 'WASH Compact', and developed a Sector Investment Plan (SIP) in 2013. A National Water Resources and Sanitation Board has been established to oversee policy implementation, complemented by a National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion Committee to lead sector coordination. Led by the latter with Bank support, Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs) were held in 2013, 2014, and 2015 to review progress and harmonize interventions. An important remaining gap, however, is the regulator ("Water Supply and Sanitation Commission") that was planned in the 2011 WASH Compact signed by the President of the Republic of Liberia, but that has not yet been established.

The LWSC was established as a Public Statutory Corporation under an act approved in 1973 and revised in 1976 under Chapter 88 of the Public Authorities Law. The LWSC mandate is to provide safe water supply and sanitation services to the urban areas with population above 5,000 inhabitants. These include Monrovia, Buchanan, Kakata, Zwedru, Sanniquellie, Harper, Voinjama, Tubmanbourg, Greenville, and Robertsport. The LWSC has gone through a long post-war crisis. Significant improvements were implemented, albeit after a Bank-financed audit and a change in management in 2011–12. The LWSC has increased its revenues by 145 percent between fiscal year (FY) 11 and FY14, increased customers connected by 20 percent, and streamlined its staffing. The Ebola crisis affected revenues due to the closure of businesses; however, a determined effort saw collection efficiency increase and the LWSC recorded US\$4.1 million in revenue in FY15 (compared to US\$4.7 million in FY14), which was augmented by a US\$2.1 million Government subsidy for a total reported

In urban areas, the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) is responsible for water supply and sanitation services.

Jan 10, 2019 Page 4 of 14

positive result of US\$299,000. In pursuit of further institutional reform, the GoL has entered into a Performance Contract

Agreement with the LWSC to provide water supply and sewerage services more efficiently, with clear targets and incentives, and is also aiming to manage its subsidiaries outside Monrovia through performance-based management contracts. The act that established the LWSC in 1973 (revised in 1976) is currently also being revised to reflect these changes, with a target date of June 2016.

In spite of institutional reforms, funding for water and sanitation has remained limited. Domestic and donor funding to the sector—currently around US\$25 million annually—are low compared to annual needs estimated at US\$110 million in 2014 (GoL 2013). Only US\$2.5 million, or 0.4 percent of the national budget were allocated to the WASH sector in 2013—14, although the 2015—16 budget intended to double the amount assigned to WASH to US\$5 million as part of the Ebola Response and Recovery WASH Plan. In recent years, an important part of the domestic WASH budget has been an annual subsidy to help the national utility LWSC meet operational costs. The GoL has not, however, financed significant infrastructure investments.

In the rural sector, the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) takes a lead role within the government. The MPW has spearheaded a number of recent WASH-related initiatives, including the creation of a Water Point Atlas, the SIP, the JSRs, and much of the WASH response to Ebola. However, the budget and implementation capacity of the MPW for WASH has remained low, and infrastructure construction is driven by donors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private groups such as churches. Moreover, fragmentation persists with some hygiene promotion tasks led by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The Ministry of Lands, Mines, and Energy is in charge of water resource management.

Investments in the sanitation subsector have remained limited relative to the enormous needs. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and Oxfam are actively supporting two urban projects with the objective of increasing access to on-site sanitation services for Monrovia's poor. By contrast, piped sewerage networks have not seen significant investments since the war. In rural areas, the AfDB has commissioned a study on the National Rural Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) for FY 16–21. Rural areas have been targeted by a community-led total sanitation program supported by the MPW, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and NGOs, which has achieved open defecation free status in 343 communities (GoL 2015). However, the program remains under-resourced and has not progressed sufficiently to reach the target of 5,000 open defecation free communities. Smaller, more discrete interventions in the sector are carried out by individual NGOs, which are building latrines and handwashing facilities.

In the water sector, donors are funding selected infrastructure improvements. While investments in rural water supply predominantly consist of small point-source construction efforts led by NGOs, local groups, and churches, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the AfDB have financed larger undertakings in urban areas. Outside the capital Monrovia, USAID is financing the Liberia Municipal Water Project with the objective of increasing access to piped water for the populations of Robertsport, Saniquellie, and Voinjama. The AfDB is also constructing small piped networks in secondary cities (Buchanan, Kakata, and Zwedru) as part of its Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project (UWSSP). The main effort of the AfDB's UWSSP, however, is focused on Monrovia, where the project has rehabilitated the White Plains water production plant that supplies the capital's existing water network. The production was restored from the current 5 million gallons per day (mgd) to the plant's prewar capacity of 16 mgd. The AfDB project also consists of restoring some of the primary transmission lines.

The rehabilitation and extension of Monrovia's water distribution network is a top priority. The existing network will otherwise be a constraint on the LWSC's ability to distribute the additional production capacity and is a major bottleneck in the expansion of the utility's customer and revenue base. At present, the total network length is merely 231 km, extends to less than 50 percent of the Greater Monrovia area, and supplies less than 10,000 active customers. By comparison, the city of Dakar in Senegal has a piped water network of at least 2,870 km (over 4,000 km if the network in

Jan 10, 2019 Page 5 of 14

the adjoining city of Rufisque is counted) achieving almost universal access to piped water in a city of similar dimension as Greater Monrovia. The network is not only limited in reach but lacks density in areas it nominally supplies. The network averages below 0.6 m of pipe per person in its coverage area, while a typical range for a fully effective system is 1 to 5 m per person (GoL 2013). Moreover, large parts of the existing network are in a state of disrepair and non-revenue water (NRW) is estimated to be approximately 80 percent of production in 2018.

The parent project has deliberately been conceived as a "first step" to "carry out urgent rehabilitations" and "alleviate the most binding constraints for the Monrovia water supply distribution network" and thus "lay the basis for additional investments to expand access to safe piped water further" (World Bank, 2016). This AF is thus a logical next step in the progressive improvement of Liberia's urban water supply. This is of paramount importance in Liberia where large sections of the population remain dangerously exposed to unsafe water. Less than three percent of Liberians currently benefit from piped water. Even in the capital city, an estimated 80 percent of the population relies on point sources such as handdug wells which may be 'improved' in a technical sense but are unsuitable for dense urban environments.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

The project development objective (PDO) is to increase access to piped water supply services in the project area in Monrovia and improve the operational efficiency of LWSC.

Current PDO

No change.

Key Results

Progress towards the PDO will be measured through the following indicators:

- a. Direct project beneficiaries (number);
 - Female Beneficiaries (%);
- b. Number of people in urban areas provided with access to Improved Water Sources under the project (number);
- c. Active connections per length of piping (kilometers);
- d. Metering Ratio number of active accounts that are metered over the total active accounts (%);
- Non-Revenue Water the ratio of volume of total water losses over total volume produced (%).

D. Project Description

The AF in the amount of US\$10 million will be used to scale-up the rehabilitation and extension of Monrovia's piped water distribution system, as well as to reinforce the LWSC's operational efficiency. Planned interventions are based on an existing feasibility study completed in 2015. The AF will increase the funding and scope for both the infrastructure-focused Component 1 and capacity-building Component 2. The project will improve network resilience and reliability, consumer access to safely managed water and the financial sustainability of the utility.

Additional Financing under Component 1: The AF will fund key interventions that will improve the conveyance of water by the main transmission line towards central Monrovia's main reservoirs and increase the storage capacity in Paynesville areas to increase access and enhance the quality and quantity of the water supply service to existing customers. This is

Jan 10, 2019 Page 6 of 14

expected to lead to at least 10,000 new household connections and 50 standpipes, thus serving an estimated additional 52,000 Monrovians, almost doubling the number of beneficiaries under the parent credit while improving the supply service to existing customers through better regulation of the water demand and supply. Specifically, Component 1 will finance:

- a. Express line to Newport Booster Station and restructuring of current eastern main transmission line section (US\$ 5,100,000): The persistent restriction of water supply in central Monrovia is largely due to the outdated and damaged state of the main transmission line along Tubman Boulevard, in particular around the Monrovia Central Business District (Capitol Hill to Mamba Point areas). The AF will relieve this critical bottleneck and support the increase of water transmission to central Monrovia by supporting a parallel express line up to 7.2 kilometers of transmission pipes with associated valves and chambers. This will also result in a head loss and leakage reduction and thus water savings for about 5,000 new connections and 25 public standpipes.
- b. Paynesville service reservoir and connection to existing network (US\$ 3,500,000): This will support the supply and construction of a 4,500 m³ ground reservoir and connection to the existing distribution network in the area. The reservoir will serve as a break pressure tank and flow regulator to ensure the constant supply and operational pressure in the service area to increase the supply service quality to 24 hours a day to about 70,625 people and allow connection to about 5,000 new customers and the construction of 25 public standpipes.

Additional Financing under Component 2: The AF will fund capacity building interventions at LWSC with US\$ 1.4 million. These measures are critical to ensure the sustainable operation and maintenance of the new infrastructure, especially given the newly discovered NRW level. A focus will be placed on improving cost-recovery by supporting the operation of DMAs, NRW unit staff training and equipment, the furnishing of spare parts and operational tools (e.g. spare meters, pipes, repair equipment), customer orientation and support to the project implementation unit (PIU).

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

Project implementation arrangements have functioned well and will be maintained for the AF. LWSC continues to implement the project through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) that was recruited. The PIU has gained significant experience during the implementation of the parent project.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project location is Monrovia, the capital city of the Republic of Liberia (coordinates: 6°18′48″N 10°48′5″W). The project area has a large lagoon from southern to central area. Surrounding this Mesurado lagoon, flat land is spread and distributed over the west side and northwest side, and low hills with gentle undulation are distributed on Monrovia's southern side along the coast of a narrow peninsula and watershed boundaries among the Mesurado river basin, the Warner creek basin and Du river basin. The St Paul river, which originates in the Republic of Guinea, empties into the Atlantic ocean in Monrovia and is the source of the water for White Plains treatment plant that supplies the city's piped network. At least a quarter of Liberia's population lives in the Greater Monrovia area. Unplanned urbanization has resulted in

Jan 10, 2019 Page 7 of 14

the proliferation of informal settlements, with an estimated 70% of Monrovia's population currently living in slum conditions with lack of basic services. Such settlements and Industrial Areas have expanded into inland swampy areas, and the generally dense and informal settlements in Monrovia mean that road reserves are often not respected. The geology of the project area mainly consists of Precambrian Melanocratic gneiss, Devonian Paynesville sandstone, Jurassic Diabase dike, Tertiary Edna sandstone and Quaternary Beach and Fluvial deposits. The Precambrian Melanocratic gneiss is widely distributed as a base rock in northern part of the study area such as New Kru Town, North part of Logan town, Caldwell, Barnesville, North part of New Georgia, North part of Gardnersville and Johnsonville. The Devonian Paynesville sandstone is distributed at central area of New Georgia and at every part of Paynesville. The formation is intruded by Jurassic Diabase at every area and covered by Tertiary and Quaternary deposit at low flat area. The Jurassic Diabase is distributed as a dike or intrusive rock with rather large rock body in Central Monrovia A and B, Congo Town and Paynesville. The rock bodies often form low-height hill. The Tertiary Edina sandstone is distributed at the front of Paynesville sandstone in central and southern east area of New Georgia, and in central and partly southern area of Paynesville. The Quaternary deposit is distributed at low flat land of all the study area and covers underlying other formations.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Sekou Abou Kamara, Environmental Specialist Akhilesh Ranjan, Social Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The project activities include construction of a 4,500 m3 water storage reservoir in Paynesville area, and construction, repair and rehabilitation of transmission and distribution lines in other areas. The civil works will involve digging trenches for water distribution lines, excavation for reinforced concrete foundation for reservoir, and other masonry works. These activities will create short-term disturbances to the environment in the project area. Most of the project activities will take place in densely populated urban communities where restriction to project locations may not be possible, community health and safety is also a concern to address. The parent project ESIA has been updated

Jan 10, 2019 Page 8 of 14

		to include the AF activities. The updated ESIA was disclosed on in-country on January 21, 2019 and on the Bank's website, it will be done on this January 25, 2019.
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	The project does not involve Private Sector Activities as defined in OP 4.03, paragraph
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	The AF activities will have no impact on natural habitats. The works will be carried out mostly in a built environment where there are no concerns about biodiversity.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The AF activities will have no impact on forest. The works will be carried out in a built environment.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The project will not procure pesticide neither will it involve the storage, transport, and application of pesticides.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	No physical cultural resources had been identified during the conduct of the parent project ESIA as well as the updating of parent project ESIA for the AF activities. However, the works will involve excavations and trenching for storage reservoir and lying pipeline, so to proceed with work 'chance find' of the physical cultural resources shall be kept throughout the project cycle.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	This policy is not applicable to Liberia
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	The project will not finance civil works with significant resettlement impacts. No physical displacement of Project Affected People (PAP) has been anticipated, except at the proposed storage reservoir location which is identified on the private land and may have to be acquired in case the LWSC decides to use/construct the reservoir at the same location. Besides this, no other land acquisition is anticipated, and all other impacts will be minor economic disturbances and short-term inconvenience to the local residence due to traffic diversions, dust, etc. that to during construction phase mostly related to temporary disruption during pipe laying. The anticipated minor disturbance to the portions of structures of economic establishments or residential purposes are due to encroachments on the rights-of-way. The disturbed structures, during construction phase of the project, will be reconstructed and reinstated by the project proponent and made it equally good as it was or of better quality structures. The prepared Resettlement

Jan 10, 2019 Page 9 of 14

		Policy Framework (RPF) for the parent project has been updated to keep it as a reference that has spelt out overall principles and objectives of OP/BP 4.12 and provide guidance on how to manage land acquisition or potential restriction of access and the process to be followed if case of acquisition arises. The update RPF was disclosed in country on January 21, 2019 and on the bank website, it will be done on this January 25, 2019.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project will not construct a dam or rely on an existing dam.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	The parent project triggered this OP and is also applicable to the AF since the water supply system to be supported by the parent project and the AF activities sources water from the St. Paul River shared between the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Guinea and is therefore an "international waterway" for purposes of the policy. An Exception to Notification Requirements under OP7.50 was sought under the parent project because of the following reasons (i) the proposed rehabilitation and construction schemes will not adversely change the quality or quantity of water flows to the other riparian; and (ii) will not be adversely affected by the other riparian states possible water use. This exception applies only to minor additions or alterations to the ongoing scheme. The Exception also applies to the AF activities for the same reasons.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The works will not be implemented in disputed areas.

KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The project will finance the rehabilitation and expansion of the distribution network within Monrovia within the existing rights of way of Monrovia roads and highways. As such, pipe laying including ancillary structures has no foreseen major negative environmental impact, as confirmed by the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). The adverse environmental impacts are thus expected to be moderate, of limited significance and magnitude, and restricted to the construction phase. No physical displacement of people or community has been identified. Land may be acquired for the reservoir. There will be only minor economic disturbances, mostly related to temporary disruptions during pipe laying due to encroachments on the rights-of-way. These will be reconstructed by the project

Jan 10, 2019 Page 10 of 14

in equal or better quality. While OP 7.50 (Projects on International Waterways) is applicable since the water supply system to be supported by the project sources water from the St. Paul River shared between the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Guinea, an Exception to Notification Requirements under OP7.50 has been granted by World Bank management for the parent project. This exception will prevail with the AF.

- 2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: As Monrovia is growing rapidly with an evolving infrastructure, it is possible that future building activities in the project area may damage or block access to pipes financed by this project. The Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation (LWSC) will work with the Ministry of Public Works to minimize encroachment and coordinate on future building projects such as roads.
- 3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

As adverse environmental impacts are expected to be moderate, of limited significance and magnitude, and restricted to the construction phase, no project alternatives were judged to be relevant or necessary to further minimize impacts. Alternatives such as bottled water, tanker deliveries or point sources are either not safe or not affordable in the dense, urban environment of Monrovia.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The parent project's ESIA and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been updated and disclosed as required. The RPF and Simplified Social Management Plan (SSMP) of the parent credit was reviewed and updated and redisclosed as necessary. As the project might involve land acquisition for the Paynesville Reservoir and economic displacement, preparation of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be required, and the prepared RPF has been updated. The project implementation entity is adequately staffed with one environmental specialist and one social development specialist, and a functional GRM mechanism is running to ensure any complaint is properly handled.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

The key stakeholders include (a) LWSC, the implementing agency; (b) the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning; (c) the Ministry of Public Works; (d) the Ministry of Health; (e) the Monrovia City Corporation, the local government agency responsible for the project area; (f) the affected communities and relevant community groups; (g) development partners active in the water sector (esp. AfDB, USAID). The people in the project area shall always be informed and consulted about the changes and project features induced throughout the project cycle. The process shall be initiated and completed by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) safeguards team and the contractor working on the project. The project will focus on the people who will be affected by the civil construction and consumers for safe water supply. It will include Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) working in the project area. The existing Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will be reviewed. Based on the consultation with stakeholders and effectiveness of its present structure and modalities, the SEP will outline the characteristics and interest of the relevant stakeholder groups, as well as timing and methods of engagement throughout the life of the project. The existing project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be strengthened and constituted in a more effective manner for more meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Jan 10, 2019 Page 11 of 14

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Jan 10, 2019 Page 12 of 14

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APPROVAL

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Approved By

Jan 10, 2019 Page 13 of 14

P	The World Bank Liberia Urban Water Project Additional Financing (P169031)
	Liberia Urban Water Project Additional Financing (P169031)

Practice Manager/Manager: Country Director:	Safeguards Advisor:	
Country Director:	Practice Manager/Manager:	
	Country Director:	

Jan 10, 2019 Page 14 of 14