



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

THE PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 108

SUPPORTING INTEGRATION AND ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES AND SAFETY NETS FOR REFUGEES AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN LIBERIA

WHEREAS, Liberia, as a proud and independent nation, is celebrating two hundred years of freedom, and is on a solid path to greater growth and prosperity;

WHEREAS, the Government of Liberia recognizes that, while the country is on the path to development, there is an opportunity to address long standing challenges faced by Liberians, including inequality between urban and rural areas, low levels of investment in rural development, high poverty rates, high unemployment, and poor infrastructure in both urban and rural areas of Liberia;

WHEREAS, Liberia acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol in 1964 and 1980 respectively. The Convention is an international legal instrument that defines the rights of refugees and the obligations of contracting states. It is designed to provide protection and assistance and to seek durable solutions for people or groups of people that can no longer rely on their State to protect their most fundamental rights. Its key principle is that a refugee should not be returned to a country where he or she faces serious threats to his or her life or freedom.

WHEREAS, Liberia has undertaken to ensure that those refugees or former refugees from Cote d'Ivoire who wish to stay as permanent residents in Liberia after 30 June 2022, following the entry into force of the Cessation Clause, will continue to enjoy all existing rights and privileges, including freedom to work and move and freedom to access to decent basic services such as education, health and infrastructure, therewith achieving local integration as part of durable solutions for refugees, to live their lives normally along with their Host Communities;

WHEREAS, the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy (2013) defines Social Protection as a package of policies and programs, implemented as part of public action that provide income or consumption transfers to the poorest, protect the most vulnerable against livelihood risks, and improve access to economic opportunities, with the aim of reducing food insecurity and deprivation, while increasing resilience of vulnerable households and groups to shocks;

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WHEREAS, the Government of Liberia has developed a national targeting mechanism to enhance the delivery of social safety nets interventions to the extreme poor, poor and vulnerable through the establishment of the Liberia Household Social Registry under the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project, implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection;

WHEREAS, I, as President of the Republic of Liberia, issued a Presidential Endorsement on January 8, 2020 recognizing the Liberia Household Social Registry as the primary mechanism for identifying households who shall be recipients of social protection programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in the exercise of the Executive Power vested in the President by the Constitution, the President may issue Executive Orders in the public interest, either to meet the exigencies or to address particular situations which cannot await lengthy Legislative processes;

NOW THEREFORE, I, George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, hereby order:

Section 1. Integration of former Ivorian refugees after the entry into force of the Cessation Clause in Liberia by June 2022

1. That all registered refugees and former refugees from Cote d'Ivoire who wish to gain and remain as permanent residents in Liberia after 30 June 2022, following the entry into force of the Cessation Clause, will benefit from (i) simplified procedures that enable continued enjoyment of their existing rights to basic services including access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure including housing; (ii) accelerated and no cost regularization of their long-term status and documentation as permanent residents to optimize local integration and live in dignity and peace.

Improving access to financial and social services for extremely poor and vulnerable households in Liberia

2. That all eligible beneficiaries of social assistance and social safety net programs enrolled in the Liberia Household Social Registry, including all current and former refugees from Cote d'Ivoire who have opted to continue to remain in Liberia post 30 June 2022, will receive and renew National Identification (ID) cards with appropriate designation at no cost to the programs or the beneficiaries.

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Section 2. Governance Structure

The Executive Order is to be administered through the following structures.

1. Integration of former Ivorian refugees

The Ministry of Justice shall work with the Liberia Immigration Service; the Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and other relevant government of Liberia entities to ensure that former Ivorian refugees expressing desire to remain in Liberia past the implementation of the Cessation Clause in June 2022 have a legal status that allows for the processing of their permanent residence status and work permits for those who wish to gain employment.

2. Improving access to services for the extreme poor, poor and vulnerable

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection shall coordinate with all Government of Liberia Ministries, Agencies and Commissions implementing social assistance and social safety nets interventions to enroll eligible beneficiaries, of these programs in the Liberia Household Social Registry to enable the issuance of National ID cards to these beneficiaries through the National Identification Registry on a no cost basis to the programs or the beneficiaries.

Section 3. Financial Arrangements

Activities related to the policy actions above will be funded through resources mobilized from external partners and included in the national budget. The Government of Liberia, from its own domestic resources, will also contribute to covering these costs as a reflection of national ownership and commitment.

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Section 4. Effective Date

This Executive Order shall take immediate effect.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF
THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, THIS 27th
DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 2022.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "George M. Weah, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

George M. Weah, Sr.
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

