

Liberia ICT Policy (2017-2022)



A global coalition working to make broadband affordable for all



Key Highlights For public consultation



Liberia ICT Policy (2017-2022)



- **Agenda for Consultation:**

- Welcome and Introduction to the Event
- Background on ICTs - the Key Opportunities and Benefits For Liberia
- Outline of the key aspects of the New ICT Policy
- Coffee Break
- Break out groups to discuss the validation questions
- Presentations from the breakout groups, discussion
- Conclusions
- Lunch



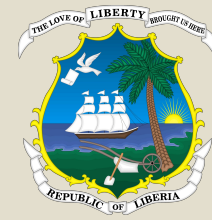
Liberia ICT Policy 2017-2022



The policy that seeks to support economic development through fully integrated Information Communication Technology that ensures total social inclusion for all Liberians

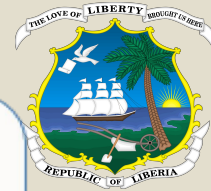


Liberia ICT Policy (2017-2022)



- **Vision and Mission:**
 - “ To transform Liberia into a regional knowledge- based economy and inclusive information society with enhanced social development for all. ”
 - “To enable fully integrated Information Communication Technologies that support economic development and social inclusion for all Liberians.”
- The new policy over the next five years (2017 to 2022) aims to address these developments and support the social and economic development of Liberian society under the key pillars of **Structure**, **Empower** and **Transform (SET)**.

Structure, Empower, and Transform (SET)



Structure

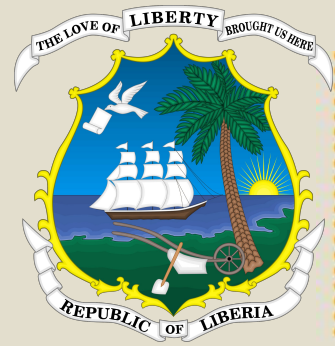
- To provide the building blocks and create an enabling environment for ICT development backed by appropriate policies , legislation and institutional framework to achieve the goal of empowerment and ultimate transformation of Liberia's economy to a knowledge based one.
- To support the development and protection of solid ICT infrastructure across the country from (subsea to last mile, aerial) and accelerate the overall development and growth.
- Establish a coordinated and business friendly approach to resource acquisition eg land, spectrum , operating licenses
- Support interoperability of systems
- Support cybersecurity and protection of ICT infrastructure

Empower

- To accelerate the uptake of ICT through targeted education and skills delivery programmes
- Establish easy to use ICT platforms for E- services delivery for all major government
- Support the development of online portals for public awareness initiatives , knowledge share, skills development ; boost building of business incubators and innovation hubs
- Support digital and Financial literacy
- Encourage private sector led development
- Boost citizen and civil society participation local and international affairs

Transform

- Accelerate the uptake ,and usage of ICT in every sector of the economy (eg. notably , Education, Agriculture, Health)
- Develop operational efficiency in E-services to Citizens, to Businesses and amongst government agencies via simplified processes leading to greater output
- Upscale citizen and civic participation in community and government affairs with special emphasis on marginalised groups
- Increase transparency and accountability of systems and processes with continuous improvement
- Contribute to the national GDP with measurable set targets



Key Highlights of the Liberia ICT Policy 2017-2022

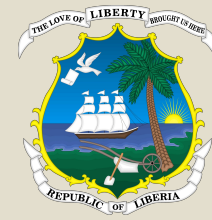


Summary of Key Objectives of the Liberia ICT Policy



1. Expand ICT infrastructure and establish a national fibre optic backbone to connect all 15 county capitals with reliable links
2. Address last mile challenges to ensure universal access to voice services and broadband, supported by the adoption of infrastructure sharing and dig-once policies and effective use of the Universal Access Fund to meet the needs of underserved areas.
3. To transform Libtelco into a dedicated Government connectivity provider and set up a Data Center and backup facilities to serve the needs of all government departments
4. Ensure critical ICT infrastructure is well protected and effective response mechanisms are in place to deal with cybersecurity issues and other physical disasters e.g epidemics

Summary of Key objectives of the Liberia ICT Policy (continued)



5. Foster the development of efficient Government E-services and online applications for supporting the growth of Liberia's economy
6. Establish a National Education and Research Network (NREN) for all tertiary and secondary education institutions to provide access to high speed internet
7. Support human capacity building and local innovation in science, digital skills and technology leading to the creation of new jobs
8. Use ICTs to drive inclusion of women, marginalised and indigenous groups
9. Boost the development of a vibrant E-commerce and digital services
10. Enable citizens of Liberia explore the full use of the broadband services making them a competitive, knowledge driven and well informed society



Current Sector Status

- Indicators:
 - 81%: proportion of mobile phone subscribers (2015)
 - 16%: proportion of Liberians with mobile phone subscriptions accessing the Internet (Q1, 2017)
 - 50% : proportion of population with access to 3G signal (Q1, 2017)
- Wireless Market
 - 2 major mobile operators (“highly concentrated” market)
 - 9 private ISPs
- Wireline Market
 - Under-developed and no fixed access network
- Interconnectivity
 - African Coast to Europe (ACE) cable only source of international connectivity
 - Google’s Project Link is the first step in developing a metro fiber network in Monrovia
 - Liberia Internet Exchange Point (IXP) is now in place

Urgent ICT needs in Liberia



Access

(Increasing general population access to ICTs)

Connectivity/Fibre

(ensuring access to fibre backbones and submarine landing stations)

Coverage

(reducing digital divide between urban and rural areas)

Dialogue between stakeholders

(operator operation data and legal/regulatory action)

Streamlining infrastructure sharing

(eliminating timing, pricing, equipment quality issues)

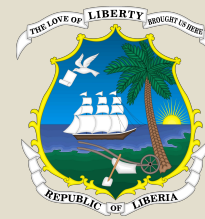
Gap in regulation

(dialogue, pricing, one-stop-shop, regulatory bottlenecks)

Broadband

(bringing down broadband data prices for final consumers)

Current Needs



Thematic Policy Focus Areas

**Policy, Legal, and
Regulatory
Framework**

ICT Infrastructure

**Broadband and
Internet**

**Spectrum
Management**

**Information safety
and Cybersecurity**

**Universal Access
and Service**

**Mainstreaming
Gender in ICT and
Women**

**Innovation, Research
and Development**

**Mainstreaming
ICT for Youth**

**Mainstreaming ICTs
for Persons with
Disabilities**

**ICTs and Education /
Human Resource
Development**

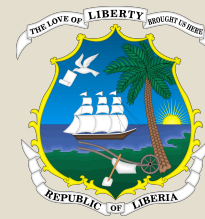
**Enhancing
Government Services
across All Sectors**

**Local Content
Development**

**Investment and
Funding**

**Consumer
Protection**

Summary of Targets



Focus Area	Measurable Targets
Improving Policy/Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Complete review of existing policies and laws with a plan for harmonization where necessary● Enact harmonization of existing policies/laws● Draft new policies and laws as required (e.g., data protection, cyber-security, digital financial services, etc.)
Expanding and improving ICT infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adopt a “dig once” policy for infrastructure development across all sectors● Adopt infrastructure sharing guidelines for all ISPs and mobile network operators● Ensure rights of way access over public land infrastructure● Implement key infrastructure programs (e.g., national fiber optic backbone network, metro-fiber ring, etc.)

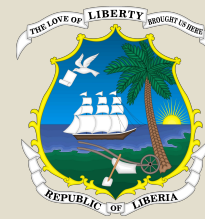
Improving ICT Infrastructure Fiber Optic Backbone Plan



Fibre Optic
Metropolitan
Network
being built by
Google:

Project Link

Summary of Targets (continued)



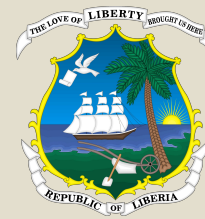
Focus Area	Measurable Targets
Broadband access and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adopt affordability target of 1GB of mobile prepaid data priced at less than 2% of average monthly per capita income (“1 for 2” target)● 35% of Liberians access and use mobile broadband services (3G and higher)● 10% of Liberians access and use fixed broadband services
Spectrum Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Develop 5 -year spectrum management plan
Cyber-security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Establish cyber-security advisory committee● Draft cyber-security policy
Digital Financial Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Draft a national policy on interoperability of telecom networks for digital financial services.

Summary of Targets (continued)



Focus Area	Measurable Targets
Universal Access and Universal Access Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Launch of USF● All projects disbursements and financial reports published and easily accessible to the public● 30% of Liberians report using the Internet (ITU definition: at least once within the last 3 months of survey)
Gender and Women and ICTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Baseline research on national access and use of ICTs including among women, girls, and other relevant groups● Outline national plan to improve gender equity in access and use
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Complete an inventory of Internet access (and type of access) of all schools and at all levels● Improve Internet access in schools by 20% over current level● All secondary schools offer at least 1 ICT related course or program.● Proportion of teachers trained to teach subjects using ICTs increase by 50% over current level

Summary of Targets (continued)



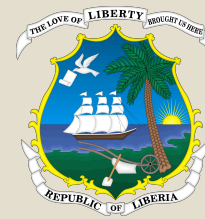
Focus Area	Measurable Targets
Innovation and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Complete map of key public, private and other sponsored activities that support innovation and research● Develop public+private investment and support plan for targeted innovation activities and spaces.
Consumer Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Draft consumer protection policy
Reform of ICT governance structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Complete feasibility plan of implementation revised governance structure for the ICT sector● Enact structural reforms
Health and ICTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 50% of all clinics and hospitals have Internet access● 100% of all clinics and hospitals have Internet access● E- health strategy

Summary of Targets (continued)

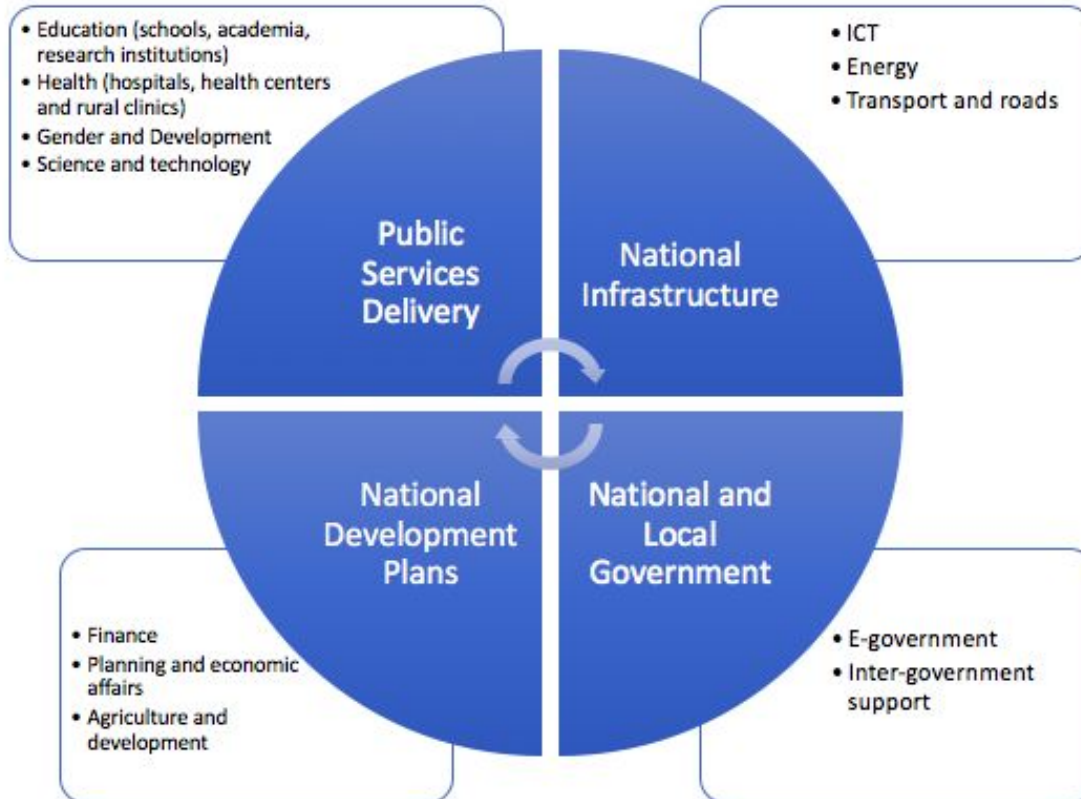


Focus Area	Measurable Targets
Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All County Service Centers have Internet access● All Superintendent offices have Internet access● IFMIS platform expanded to all counties with reliable internet access (broadband)
Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs) - Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All MACs in Monrovia have Internet Access● All other MACs in counties have Internet access
Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs) - Online services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Basic web presence, and local domain email addresses established.● Interactive web site established● Transactional capability available for all online platforms● Enhanced presence and delivery on all online platforms

Institutional Framework



The National ICT Policy Support National Development Plans and Requires Cross Ministerial Coordination



Recommendations for Proposed Government Institutional Structures



1. The MOPT renamed to reflect its role as a ministry with broad mandate and oversight on: telecommunications, information technology, broadcasting infrastructure and posts
2. The Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the government based in the Executive Office
3. The Liberian Telecommunications Authority (LTA) continues as regulator for the ICT sector
4. Postal operations separated from MOPT, and postal services established as an independent national postal operator and regulated by the LTA
5. A National IT Agency (NITA) established to manage Libtelco as government connectivity provider
6. Infrastructure working group of the Ministry of Public Works upgraded to a National Engineering Coordinating team (NECT) hosted under Ministry of Public Works, co-chaired by MoPT

What is A4AI?



We are the
world's broadest technology sector alliance
working to
drive down the price of broadband
by
transforming policy and regulatory frameworks.

Conducting robust original research to underpin evidence-based policy



Annual Affordability Report

Latest edition
released
February 2017

Case studies

Ghana, Nigeria,
Cameroon, Peru,
Brazil, Dominican
Republic,
Myanmar,
Bangladesh

Thematic briefings

Universal Access
& Service Funds;
Zero-rating &
other mobile
data plans

Direct support & action: Where are we working?



Guatemala

Dominican Republic

Liberia

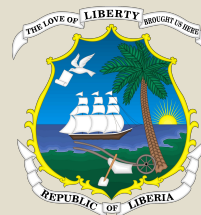
Ghana

Nigeria

Mozambique

Bangladesh

Myanmar



Thank you!



Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)