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Country Focal Point
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PROFILE OF ORGANIZATION

Waking the Giant Advocacy Platform - Liberia has a representative membership of 25 Institutions including 20 denominational Churches, 3 ecumenical bodies/associations and 2 Church-related institutions. The Platform has achieved key milestones from its initiation by the **Lutheran World Federation** in 2018. It started as a project with the objectives to mobilize Churches and other Faith Actors to get involved in the implementation of the SDGs; and to strengthen partnerships between Faith Actors and State and Intergovernmental Actors. Key milestones achieved from this initiative have included a sustained advocacy program on Gender Justice; and partnerships with the Liberian Government for monitoring and evaluating performance of the Government in the implementation of the SDGs; the development and validation of its Voluntary National Review to the UN High Level Political Forum and regional Forums. Additionally, Waking the Giant has maintained a distinguished Advocacy Platform that allows Faith Actors inclusive of the Platform members and other faith groups (Inter-religious Council and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission in Liberia) to do a joint program planning and implementation strategy that is unique for advancing interventions and campaigns on social, economic and environmental developments.

Waking the Giant supplied the preliminary data on contributions of Faith Actors in Liberia to the SDGs 3 (Health and Well-being), 4 (education for all) and 16 (Peace, Justice and strong Institutions) with technical assistance from Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and German Cooperation (GIZ). This resource is the reference point for the narrative of the Liberian Government National reviews on the SDGs to be inclusive with Non State Actors with sufficient data. Waking the Giant was championed among other CSOs to represent all the religious groups in Liberia on the Liberia delegation to New York for the presentation of its 2022 VNR to the HLPF. These distinguished achievements of Faith Actors role among CSOs has been at the core advocacy target for Waking the Giant; ensuring that contributions at the bedrocks of societies are accounted for within the United Nations Agenda reviews and not left behind. In Liberia, Faith Actors contribute substantively to achieving the SDGs in the services they provide to communities and the public. Churches and other Faith Actors in Liberia provide a little above 68% of educational services, 54% health services in Liberia and in many areas to ending extreme poverty.

Coming from the High-Level Political Forum of 2022, “Building back better from the COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” Waking the Giant a national level advocacy which is a national Consultation on confronting extreme poverty in Liberia, initiating a national campaign drive for the introduction of a Universal Social Protection. The campaign raises the awareness to rethink the approaches for addressing the overwhelming Zogos (vulnerable and increasing population of substance abuse related communities) situation in Liberia. See attached resolution from the national consultations with Faith Actors and Zogos.