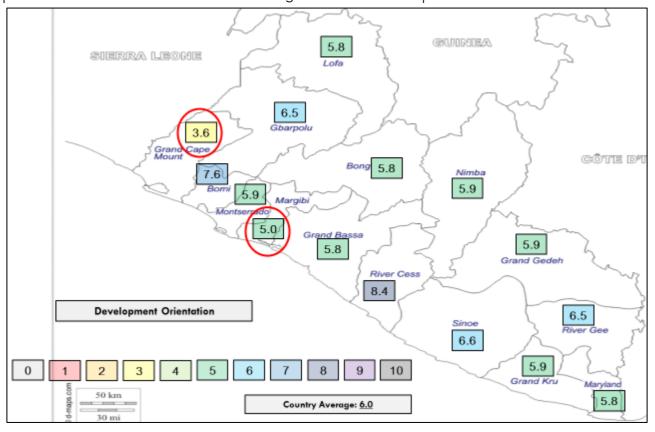# SCORE

SCORE LIBERIA DRAFT POLICY BRIEF
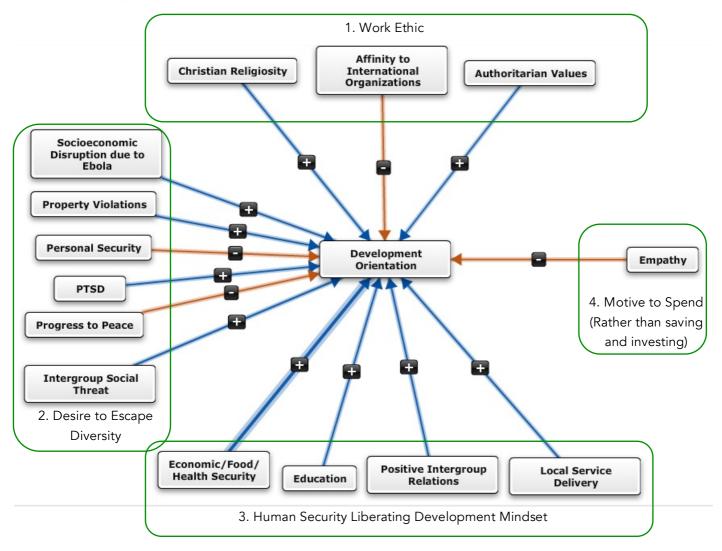
Development Orientation

SCORE Liberia was launched in April 2016. Following the qualitative calibration of the methodology to the Liberian context, the quantitative fieldwork was completed in January 2017. The underlying objectives of the research are to understand the dimensions and indicators, and to collect empirical data relevant to the nature of social cohesion and coexistence in Liberia. SCORE can help identify hotspots, diagnose risks and understand the predictors of violence, which is of utmost importance at this current juncture, with the upcoming presidential elections and ongoing draw-down of UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Considering the turbulent past of Liberia and its multi-ethnic, multi-religious societal composition, one of the key outcomes of interest for SCORE was to identify development orientation, which is a necessary prerequisite for long-term, sustainable economic growth and social development. On these counts, the SCORE broadly defines development orientation, which is crucial for economic growth, as having a strong work ethic, entrepreneurship mentality and propensity to invest, with the aim of facilitating employability, enhancing quality of life and contributing to the realization of dreams and aspirations.

As it can be seen from the heat map below, the average score for development orientation across Liberia is 6 on a 0 to 10 scale (he higher the score is the stronger the development orientation on an individual level), meaning on the whole people generally demonstrate some development orientation. According to the heat map while Grand Cape Mount and Margibi (circled in red) score lower than the national average, respondents in River Cess[1] demonstrate the highest level of development orientation.

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[1] As SCORE findings point out that that there is a direct relationship between wishing to escape such adversity with increased development orientation - taking control over one's own destiny - River Cess strong development orientation can be attributed to

However, in order to suggest targeted and tailored policy interventions to address specific needs at the county (and group) level, we need to turn to the SCORE predictive analysis based on scientific statistical methods. The predictive analysis illustrated below identified four main groups of indicators that predict development orientation in Liberia: 1. Work ethic; 2. Desire to escape adversity; 3. Human security liberating development mind set; and 4. Motive to spend (rather than saving and investing). The thickness and the colour of the arrows indicate the strength of the relationship (i.e., thicker the arrow, the stronger the relationship) and the nature of the relationship (i.e. blue arrows represent indicators that positively contribute to "development orientation" and, whereas orange arrows inhibit/impede "development orientation", respectively.

1.   Work ethic, which can often be seen as a driver of economic growth, relate to the belief in the principle that hard work is intrinsically virtuous or worthy of reward and conviction about the moral benefit and importance of work. In descending order of relationship strength, indicators that contribute to readiness in this group are as follows:

Christian religiosity: Individuals who identify themselves as Christians, tend to have – a 'protestant work ethic', hence they show strong development motivation and a strong work ethic.

Affinity to international organizations: The compelling relationship of dependency is demonstrated in the predictive model with the negative relationship between development orientation and affinity to international organisations. Unfortunately, this finding questions the positive impact international organisations have had with regards to development in Liberia, and underlines the strong need to focus on capacity-building programmes, vocational skills and efforts that foster both the motivation and skills to develop in order to act as engines rather than hindrances to

socioeconomic growth. In many cases, international aid, if not tied to appropriate objectives and local capacity-building exercises on the ground, can prove a malaise rather than a cure.

Authoritarian values: relates to the extent to which an individual values authoritarian leadership and/or exhibits authoritarian traits. Empirical evidence and global examples (e.g. China) show that authoritarian values and hierarchies are effective in creating wealth. However, there is no doubt that this kind of growth is neither desirable nor sustainable. Thus, this is indicator is an important consideration when designing entrepreneurship and capacity building programmes. As such focus these programmes should be on civic responsibility creativity, adhocracy and vocational skills. SCORE findings reveal high authoritarian values across Liberia, where the country average is 8.1, meaning over 8 out of 10 people share authoritarian values[2].

2. Desire to escape adversity, is a group of indicators that include those who have been victimised by conflict, epidemics and negative intergroup relations. These individuals are portraying stronger development orientation due to their desire to control their own destiny and escape adversity. Thus, capacity building programmes aimed at improving development orientation should combine counselling and support for victims with skills development. For example, Bomi, Nimba, Gbarpolu and River Cess are areas with high levels of PTSD and Nimba, River Gee and River Cess are counties where high levels of intergroup tension and personal insecurity is experienced. Such adverse experiences are, in turn, correlated to a strong desire to escape this experienced adversity.

Socio-economic disruption due to Ebola: Individuals, who experienced socio-economic disruption due to the Ebola outbreak, are more likely to have development orientation in order to escape uncertainty.

Property violations: Individuals who suffered from property violations due to conflict, are more likely to feel motivated to work in order to return to their pre-conflict level of wealth and property ownership.

Personal insecurity relates to feeling unsafe from violence (e.g. physical violence, crime, child labor), and creates a motive for development in order to break the sense of vulnerability.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety problem that develops in some people after extremely traumatic events. People with PTSD are more likely to express desire for development to escape the pain of their past traumas by working hard towards achieving their future aspirations.

Progress to peace: Deterioration of social fabric creates a motive for development to escape uncertainty. People who think that there is lack of progress towards peace, are more likely to feel motivated to work in order to improve their living circumstances.

Intergroup social threats relate to the extent to which individuals consider their own group's way of life to be potentially threatened by adversarial groups. This stimulates economic competition and therefore development orientation.

3. Human security liberating development mind set: In this group of indicators, that has the strongest overall relationship to the outcome of interest, we can observe human security (economic, health and food security) coming forth as a vital positive predictor of development orientation. In line with the Maslow's hierarchy of needs, human security along with service delivery and infrastructure liberates a development mind set and an entrepreneurship mentality. Efforts to improve human security should be targeted particularly for Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Margibi and Sinoe.

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[2] Authoritarian values refer to convictions about strong handed leadership and obedience, and lack of support for participatory decision making.

Health, food and economic security: Health and food security relates to freedom from hunger and disease, (e.g. famine, deadly infectious diseases, unsafe food, malnutrition, lack of access to basic health care). Economic security relates to the state of having a secure basic income, being able to cover their needs (e.g. persistent poverty, unemployment). Individuals are more likely to save and invest, when their basic needs are met.

Education: Individuals with higher levels of education, tend to have stronger entrepreneurial skills and competences; they are more likely to have expectations that the next generations should have more prosperous lives, which stimulates a motive for development.

Positive intergroup relations: Individuals who have positive interactions (e.g. trust, positive feelings and social proximity) with members of other groups, are more likely to experience stronger community coherence and belonging. Thus, positive intergroup relations facilitate the move away from a conflict mindset to a development mindset.

Local service delivery: Provision of basic services such as water, road network, electricity offers the necessary infrastructure for socioeconomic growth and allow citizens to save, invest and develop.

4. Motive to spend (Rather than saving and investing)

Empathy relates to the ability to place oneself in another's position in order to understand and/or feel what the other person is experiencing from their perspective. High levels of empathy increase the likelihood of giving away earnings to those in need rather than saving (hence reducing the chances of investment for a more prosperous future). There is no doubt that empathy is a positive predictor for coexistence and intergroup harmony among other things. Thus, the key policy implication of this finding is to promote and improve local community support mechanisms for vulnerable groups and members of society such as social welfare mechanisms in order to lighten the responsibility empathetic individuals feel towards the underprivileged.

Policy recommendations

Policies and interventions to improve development orientation should use the predictive model to identify policy entry points that have the highest likelihood of creating positive impact and match these with the heat maps to identify priority areas of concern. SCORE findings that use predictive and diagnostic data analysis tools thus can help ensure effective and efficient allocation of resources.

Policy Entry Points	Recommendations
Economic, Food and Health Security	• Effective ways to improve human security can include multiple holistic approaches at the local level. These can include risk-sharing arrangements that pool membership funds and promote community-based insurance schemes; improving health education, and access to health care and safe water. • Economic security can only be improved through combatting unemployment, improving access to education, organizing local literacy classes and vocational training opportunities for youth, women and the long-term unemployed. Microfinancing and funding available for innovative agricultural methods and the creation of local cooperatives should also be considered, so as to boost economic opportunities both in urban and rural areas. • Food security goes part and parcel with above recommendations, with the added

	premise of required infrastructure for producing, delivering and storing food. • Improving availability of a state welfare and support networks provided for vulnerable groups would ease the burden on individuals to sustain and support friends, neighbours and relatives, which could boost personal development orientation for empathetic people who tend to spend on others rather than save for themselves. Increasing individual propensity to save could also act as a stimulant to economic development, since available funds and propensity to invest in business and/or make major future purchases (e.g. buying a house which can be considered a form of wealth) can be a multiplier of economic acceleration. Target counties: Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, Margibi.
Positive intergroup relations and perceived intergroup threat	• Working at local community level could serve to gradually lessen levels of intergroup mistrust, perceptions of threat and on-going conflict. • Investing in non-violent communication at grassroots level and promoting healing processes to address perceptions of intergroup threat, stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes and possibly using women's organisations could be a good stepping stone, giving women a greater role in national reconciliation processes could be another. • Incorporating peace education into curricula and improving inclusive education experiences, as well as adopting public narratives that endorse forgiveness would significantly help improve intergroup harmony in the long run. • Initiatives aimed at improving intergroup relations should primarily focus on reconciling Mandigos, Gios and other groups, including Muslims; with more intensified reconciliation efforts tailored for River Cess and River Gee.
Affinity to International Organizations	• Revise development programmes designed by international organizations to focus on capacity-building programmes and efforts that foster both the motivation and skills to develop, and support young and women entrepreneurs to nurture an enabling development environment reduce aid dependency. • Promote local risk-sharing arrangements, including community-based insurance schemes and access to technical and financial assistance for farmer and artisan cooperatives, collective labour action, vocational training and community access to microfinancing. • Design youth recovery and empowerment programmes such as entrepreneurship, social, cultural and economic activities to improve youth participation and inclusion • Scale up local socio-economic capacity building programmes such as support for farmer cooperatives and
Local Service Delivery	• Efficient implementation of decentralization policies, improved access to state service delivery including water, electricity, road networks and state documents, and infrastructural investments would be an effective way of contributing to development orientation positively. Target counties: River Cess and Nimba.
PTSD	• Provide cognitive-behavioural therapy to help understand and change how people think about the trauma of the civil war and its aftermath. • Promote group-healing processes, such as sharing personal stories and experiences with others, which may help people who suffer from PTSD feel more comfortable to cope with their symptoms, memories, and other parts of their

| | lives. Group therapy helps individuals learn to deal with emotions such as shame, guilt, anger, rage, and fear, and help build self-confidence and trust. |
| | • Combine economic incentives with psychological counselling to victims and vulnerable groups, and improve of social welfare, health care and support systems, particularly in River Cess, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, River Gee, Nimba, Montesarro and Lofa. |

About the SCORE Index: The SCORE Index was originally developed by SeeD in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with funding from USAID. The tool supports policy decisions for national and international stakeholders and is particularly suited for post-conflict, multi-ethnic societies that now face peacebuilding and state-building challenges. By examining social cohesion and reconciliation, the SCORE Index aims to identify and analyse the factors that underpin peace in a society - as needed in order to better inform and evaluate intervention programs. Thus far, versions of the SCORE Index have been implemented in Cyprus (2013, 2014 and 2015), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013), Nepal (2014), Ukraine (2015-ongoing), Liberia (2017), and Moldova (2017-ongoing).

About SeeD: SeeD is a peacebuilding think tank, originally with a regional scope, that uses participatory research to support international organizations, local policymakers, stakeholders, and peace practitioners to develop, implement and monitor targeted efforts towards social cohesion and reconciliation. SeeD specializes in the development of innovative quantitative methodologies, such as Participatory Polling and the SCORE Index, which seek to understand the underlying social dynamics of conflict and its transformation for use in peacebuilding contexts.

More information can be found at SCORE Online Platform: www.scoreforpeace.org.

The SCORE Index in Liberia has been implemented in partnership between SeeD, UNMIL and UNDP. The fieldwork was conducted by Search for Common Ground (project manager: Aaron Weah, Director of Liberia Country Office) with invaluable support from Anu Kulkarni (Stanford University) and David Backer (University of Maryland) as collaborators in the design of the survey and questionnaire. Univeristy of Liberia also provided USIP funding supported for the project.