



Promoting Accountability of Public Resources

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

**ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT OF
THE LIBERIA INVESTMENT, FINANCE AND
TRADE PROJECT (LIFT-P) LIFT-P: P171997**

Credit: No. IDA V3830 and IDA 70370

**Grant No. IDA D9690 *for the Year ended
December 31, 2024***

May 2025



**P. Garswa Jackson, Sr. FCCA, CFIP, CFC
Auditor General, R.L.**

Table of Contents

Opinion	3
Basis for Opinion.....	3
Other Matter	3
Management’s Responsibilities	4
Auditor’s Responsibilities	4

Acronyms/Abbreviations/Symbols

Acronyms/Abbreviations/Symbol	Meaning
AG	Auditor General
CBL	Central Bank of Liberia
CERC	Contingent Emergency Response Component
CFC	Certified Financial Consultant
CFIP	Certified Forensic Investigation Professional
CPA	Certified Public Accountant
FCCA	Fellow Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
ERTP	Economic Recovery and Transformation Project
GAC	General Auditing Commission
GoL	Government of Liberia
IDA	International Development Association
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
IUFR	Interim Unaudited Financial Reports
LBR	Liberia Business Registry
LIFT-P	Liberia Investment, Finance and Trade Project
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MSC	Ministerial Steering Committee
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PC	Project Coordinator
PFM Act	Public Finance Management Act
PFMU	Project Financial Management Unit
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
POM	Project Operational Manual
PPA	Project Preparatory Advance
PPC Act	Public Procurement & Concessions Act
PPCC	Public Procurement and Concessions Commission
PV	Payment Voucher
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMT	Senior Management Team
SPA	Senior Project Accountant
TC	Technical Committee
TIMAs	Technical Implementing Ministries and Agencies
US\$	United States Dollar
WB	World Bank



AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

June 27, 2025

Hon. Magdalene Ellen Dagoseh

Minister

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)

EJS Ministerial Complex

Monrovia, Liberia

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT OF THE LIBERIA INVESTMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE PROJECT (LIFT-P) FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Liberia Investment, Finance and Trade Project (LIFT-P) for the year ended December 31, 2024, which comprise the statement of Receipts and Payments, and the statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts and summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the statement of Receipts and Payments as at December 31, 2024, the statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts and summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS 2017) Cash Basis of Accounting.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Liberia Investment, Finance and Trade Project (LIFT-P) in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Liberia, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

NON-COMPLIANCE TO CONTRACT AGREEMENT-GANTA OFFICE

Management disbursed the total amount of US\$174,968.00 to Elite Contractors and Global Services Inc, for renovation of the Liberia Business Registry offices in Monrovia and Ganta respectively. We identify that no renovation work was done at the Ganta office with no evidence of an approved

amendment to the terms and conditions of the Contractual Agreement between the LIFTP Management and Elite Contractors and Global Services Inc.

In addition, Management disbursed the total amount of US\$153,066.00 to BounceBand Energy for the installation of solar panels at the Liberia Business Registry offices in Monrovia and Ganta respectively. We did not find any evidence of solar panels installation at the LBR Ganta office with no evidence of an approved amendment to the terms and conditions of the Contractual Agreement between the LIFTP Management and BounceBand Energy. Our opinion is not modified by these issues.

Management's Responsibilities


Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IPSAS Cash Basis, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing its ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The LIFT-P is responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Financial Statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) and the World Bank Guidelines. Those standards and the applicable guidelines required that we comply with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depends on the auditor's judgment, including the assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Sincerely,



P. Garswa Jackson Sr. FCCA, CFIP, CFC
Auditor General, R. L.

Monrovia, Liberia

June 2025

Liberia Investment, Finance and Trade Project (LIFTP)

Financial Statement of World Bank Funded
Project

for the period ended December 31, 2024.

LIFTP: P171997:

Credit No. IDA V3830 & IDA 70370

Grant No. IDA D9690

Ministry of Finance & Dev't Planning
Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU)

Statement of Project Management Responsibility

The Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU) of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Project Coordinator for Liberia Investment, Finance & Trade project (use the correct title designation) are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Project's financial statements, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Project for and as at the end of the financial year ended on December 31, 2024.

This responsibility includes (i) maintaining adequate financial management arrangement and ensuring that these continue to be effective throughout the reporting period, (ii) maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the project, (iii) designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement, and ensuring that they are free from material misstatements, whether due to error or fraud, (iv) safeguarding the assets of the project, (v) selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and (v) making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

The PFMU and the Project Coordinator for Liberia Investment, Finance & Trade project accept responsibility for the Project's financial statements, which have been prepared on the Cash Basis Method of Financial Reporting, using appropriate accounting policies in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

The PFMU and the Project Coordinator for Liberia Investment, Finance & Trade project are of the opinion that the Project's financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of Project's transactions during the financial year ended December 31, 2024, and of the Project's financial position as at that date. The PFMU and the Project Coordinator for Liberia Investment, Finance & Trade project further confirm the completeness of the accounting records maintained for the Project, which have been relied upon in the preparation of the Project financial statements as well as the adequacy of the systems of internal financial control.

The PFMU and the Project Coordinator for Liberia Investment, Finance & Trade project confirm that the Project has complied fully with applicable Government Regulations and the terms of external financing covenants, and that Project funds received during the financial year under audit were used for the eligible purposes for which they were intended and were properly accounted for.

Approval of the Project Financial Statements

The Project financial statements were approved by the Project Financial management Unit and the Project Coordinator for Liberia Investment, Finance & Trade project on February 7, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Statement of Project Management Responsibility	i
General information	1
Statement of receipts & payments	2
Statement of fund balance & cash status	3
Statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts	4
Statement of financial position	5
Notes to the financial statements	6-9
Project designated account statement	10
Auditor's Report	11-12

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

Project Financial Management Unit:

Papin Daniels, Jr, CA, CPA, CFE
Unit Director
Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU)

Leroy N. Fendor, CA, CPA
Deputy Director

Subozu Kollie, CFE, CA, CPA
Project Internal Auditor

Registered Office:

Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU)
Ministry of Finance
Broad and Mechlin Street
Liberia

Project Implementation Unit:

Julius Yenwon Saye-Kehne
Acting Project Coordinator
Liberia Investment, Finance & Trade Project (LIFTP)

Project Location:

LISCR Building
5th Street, Sinkor
Monrovia, Liberia

Banker:

Ecobank Liberia Limited
11th Street Sinkor
Monrovia

LIBERIA INVESTMENT FINANCE & TRADE PROJECT (LIFTP)
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

2

<i>In United States Dollars</i>	Notes	December 31, 2024	November 12, 2022 to December 31, 2023	Cummulative
Receipt				
IDA Grant & Credit	4	7,044,988	2,000,000	9,416,067
Total Receipt		7,044,988	2,000,000	9,416,067
Payments				
Investment Climate and Trade	5	590,111	143,342	733,453
SME Access to Markets and Finance	6	2,009,017	19,058	3,152,856
Digital Financial Services Infrastructure	7	35,515	11,946	47,461
Project Management + CERC	8	808,442	835,133	1,931,082
Total Payments		3,443,085	1,009,479	5,864,851
Excess of receipts over payments (payments over receipts)		3,601,903	990,521	3,551,216
Fund Balance as at beginning		1,074,094	83,573	-
Cummulative fund balance		4,675,997	1,074,094	3,551,216

The notes on pages 6 to 9 are integral part of these project financial reports

LIBERIA INVESTMENT FINANCE & TRADE PROJECT (LIFTP)
STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE AND CASH STATUS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

3

<i>In United States Dollars</i>		Notes	December 31, 2024	November 12, 2022 to December 31, 2023
A	Fund Balance			
	Balance of Project Fund		1,074,094	83,573
	Add: Total Receipts during the period		7,044,988	2,000,000
	Total Fund available for operations		8,119,082	2,083,573
	Less: Total Payments during the period		3,443,085	1,009,479
	Balance of project fund at the end of the year		4,675,997	1,074,094
B	Cash Status:			
	Cash at Bank		4,675,997	1,074,094
	Total Cash on hand and in bank		4,675,997	1,074,094
	Difference between A and B		-	-

The notes on pages 6 to 9 are integral part of these project financial reports

LIBERIA INVESTMENT FINANCE & TRADE PROJECT (LIFTIP)

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 31, 2024

Analysis of Variance

Activities Within Components

	Project Allocation	Annual US\$	Actual Expenditure US\$	Variance US\$
Investment Climate and Trade	16,000,000	3,736,000	590,111	3,145,889
SME Access to Markets and Finance	11,000,000	4,694,168	2,009,017	2,685,151
Digital Financial Services Infrastructure	9,000,000	3,374,500	35,515	3,338,985
Project Management + CERC	4,000,000	1,086,230	808,442	277,789
Total	40,000,000	12,890,898	3,443,085	9,447,813

The notes on pages 6 to 9 are integral part of these project financial reports


Variance Explanation

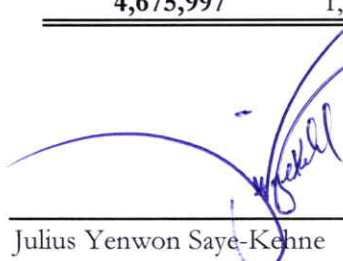
PIU was not able to spend because major implementing agencies failed to sign or respond to major procurement related documents especially for component one, component two and component three.

LIBERIA INVESTMENT FINANCE & TRADE PROJECT (LIFTP)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

5

<i>In United States Dollars</i>	Notes	November 12, 2022 to December 31,	
		December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalent		<u>4,675,997</u>	1,074,094
Total Assets		<u>4,675,997</u>	1,074,094
Fund Balance			
Grants		<u>4,675,997</u>	1,074,094
Accumulated Fund Balance		<u>4,675,997</u>	1,074,094

 Feb 7, 2025
 Papih Daniels, Jr.
 Director, Donor Financed Projects
 PFMU, MFDP


 Julius Yenwon Saye-Kehne
 Acting Project Coordinator-LIFT
 MOCI

The notes on pages 6 to 9 are integral part of these project financial reports

1. Background and Information of the Project

With support from the World Bank (WB); the Liberia Investment, Finance & Trade -project is to improve the investment climate, strengthen firm capabilities, expand financial access and help formal MSMEs recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The LIFT project was approved by the World Bank on September 21, 2021 with a Preparatory advance amount of USD 1.213 Million. The aims of the project are:

- i. To support improvements in Liberia's regulatory environment by strengthening key institutions providing Government to Business (G2B) services covering international trade, foreign investment, and business entry. It will also build on and complement the deep advisory work that has been carried out in recent years by the IFC which will continue through the initial implementation stages of the project;
- ii. To improve private sector capabilities and competitiveness at the firm level as well as stimulate youth and women entrepreneurship to support the recovery phase. It is also geared towards strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem to support the emergence of dynamic, resilient and productive firms in Liberia and in doing so support the transformation of Liberia's economy;
- iii. To build on the Ebola-response MSME Finance Facility which had the PDO of developing a framework to provide MSMEs finance on sustainable terms, enhance the capacity of local financial institutions to lend profitably to MSMEs and objectively measure outcomes.
- iv. To support: (i) Government and other actors capacity strengthening for the coordination, design, and implementation; (ii) the administrative, technical, and financial management of the project by Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under the oversight of Project Steering Committee; (iii) the coordination among all institutional partners to ensure the efficient flow of information among all actors and coordination with the private sector; (iv) the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the project's results and impact; (v) the development of communication activities to publicize and disseminate project results, best practice, and success stories; (vi) impact evaluations.
- v. A provisional zero amount component to allow for rapid reallocation of loan proceeds from other project components during an emergency.

2. Use of Grant Proceeds

The table below sets out the categories of items to be financed out of the grant and credits proceeds, the allocation of the amounts of the grant to each category and the percentage of expenditures for items to be financed in each category:

Category	Amount of grant allocated expressed in US\$	% of expenditure to be financed
Investment Climate and Trade	16,000,000	100
SME Access to Markets and Finance	11,000,000	100
Digital Financial Services Infrastructure	9,000,000	100
Program Implementation, Capacity Building and Coordination	4,000,000	100
Total	40,000,000 =====	

All categories of expenditure shown in these financial statements are fully financed based on the percentage below:

	% of Expenditure
IDA	100
Total	100
	=====

3. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Cash Basis International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as adopted by the Government of Liberia and in the manner required by the Project Grant Agreement as required by the World Bank's Operating Policies and Procedures and PFMU's Financial Management manual.

Reporting currency

Financial reports have been presented in United States Dollars. Transactions denominated in other currencies are translated into United States Dollars and recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transactions. Balances denominated in other currencies are translated into United States Dollars at the rate of exchange prevailing on the reporting date.

Grant and Credit Receipts

Grants and Credits from donors for the LIFTP project is recognized and reported in the Statement of Receipt and Payment as income when received and held in a bank account called designated income account for transitory purposes. Amounts approved for disbursement are transferred from the designated account into another bank account called the operational account. All payments for the LIFTP project and activities are made from the designated account.

Cash and bank balances

Cash consist of cash in hand, balance at bank and advance that are given to implementing partners if possible.

Recognition of expenditure

All expenditures are expensed whether they are revenue or capital in nature and income is recognized when funds are received from the World Bank.

Tax

The project is 100 percent inclusive of tax. Taxes are withheld on consultants and vendors.

Funding Source

Funding sources under the project is being shared on a pro-rata basis for IDA credit and the grant component at 48% and 52% respectively.

Comparative Analysis

The previous year of the main project activities began from November 12, 2022 to December 31, 2023 thus making it 13 months. The current year under audit runs from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. However, these figures cannot be compared due to the prior year long run of activities because of its effectiveness.

LIBERIA INVESTMENT FINANCE & TRADE PROJECT (LIFTP)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

8

<i>In United States Dollars</i>	December 31, 2024	November 12, 2022 to December 31, 2023	Cummulative
4 Funds Received in DA			
IDA V3830	-	-	371,080
IDA 70370	1,941,594	2,000,000	3,941,594
IDA D9690	5,103,394	-	5,103,394
	7,044,988	2,000,000	9,416,067
Third Party Payment			
IDA V3830 -Direct Payment	-	-	136,892
IDA 70370 -Direct Payment	570,209	381,269	951,478
	570,209	381,269	1,088,371
Total Balance of Undrawn Funds at the end of the period			
IDA 70370 -IDA Credit	12,432,565	16,259,448	-
IDA D9690 -IDA Grant	14,558,224	19,690,671	-
IDA V3830 -IDA Project Preparation Facility	-	-	-
Total Undrawn Funds	26,990,789	35,950,119	-
5 Investment Climate and Trade			
<i>Private Investment Support</i>			
Consulting Services	184,521	-	184,521
Operating Costs	147,711	143,342	291,053
	332,232	143,342	475,574
<i>Business Registration: One Stop Shop</i>			
Goods	75,443	-	75,443
Consulting Services	182,436	-	182,436
	257,879	-	257,879
Trade: National Single Window	-	-	-
	590,111	143,342	733,453
6 SME Access to Markets and Finance			
<i>SME Access to Markets</i>			
Consulting Services	8,000	-	8,000
Operating Costs	125,822	17,906	143,728
	133,822	17,906	151,728
<i>SME Access to Finance</i>			
Operating Costs	-	1,152	1,152
Grants	1,875,195	-	2,999,976
	1,875,195	1,152	3,001,128
	2,009,017	19,058	3,152,856

LIBERIA INVESTMENT FINANCE & TRADE PROJECT (LIFTP)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

9

<i>In United States Dollars</i>	December 31, 2024	November 12, 2022 to December 31, 2023	Cummulative
7 Digital Financial Services Infrastructure			
<i>National Electronic Payments Switch</i>			
Consulting Services	8,250	11,946	20,196
Operating Costs	23,911	-	23,911
	32,161	11,946	44,107
<i>Credit Registry</i>			
Consulting Services	2,451	-	2,451
Operating Costs	903	-	903
	3,354	-	3,354
	35,515	11,946	47,461
8 Project Management + CERC			
<i>PIU + CERC</i>			
Consulting Services	335,316	417,453	752,769
Goods	46,060	51,499	97,559
Operating Costs	415,914	366,181	782,095
Training	11,152	-	11,152
	808,442	835,133	1,643,575
<i>PPA</i>			
Consulting Services	-	-	32,350
Goods	-	-	97,177
Operating Costs	-	-	157,979
	-	-	287,506
	808,442	835,133	1,931,082
9 Cash receipts through the Designated Account			
IDA grant & credit	7,044,988	2,000,000	9,416,067
10 Cash paid			
Investment Climate and Trade	590,111	143,342	733,453
SME Access to Markets and Finance	2,009,017	19,058	3,152,856
Digital Financial Services Infrastructure	35,515	11,946	47,461
Project Management + CERC	808,442	835,133	1,931,082
Total Payments	3,443,085	1,009,479	5,864,851

11 Outstanding balance on the MSME account.

The total disbursement of **\$2,999,976.00** was disbursed to the MSME account operated by CBL and the PFMU. Out of that amount for the period under audit, a total of **\$1,875,195.00** was disbursed to the PFIs for onward disbursement to the MSMEs, resulting in a remaining balance of **\$1,124,781.00** in the MSME account, as indicated by the bank reconciliation.

**LIBERIA INVESTMENT FINANCE & TRADE PROJECT (LIFTP)
PROJECT DESIGNATED ACCOUNT STATEMENT**

10

Account Number: 6101834342/6101905782
Account Type: Current Account
Depository Bank (s): Ecobank
Address: 11th Street, Sinkor
 Monrovia, Liberia

Currency: United States Dollar

	December 31, 2024	November 12, 2022 to December 31, 2023
Total Funds Received	<u>7,044,988</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>
Total funds received in DA	7,044,988	2,000,000
Amount spent	<u>3,443,085</u>	<u>1,009,479</u>
Balance as at beginning	<u>1,074,094</u>	<u>83,573</u>
Balance as at December 31, 2024	<u>4,675,997</u>	<u>1,074,094</u>
Closing Balance Consist of:		
Petty Cash	1,513	3,000
Designated A/c-Ecobank	3,549,359	1,070,750
PPA Designated A/c-Ecobank	344	344
LIFT MSME Account	1,124,781	-
	<u>4,675,997</u>	<u>1,074,094</u>