



# Liberia

## Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment



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## NOTE

Within the UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics, the ICT Policy Section carries out policy-oriented analytical work on the development implications of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and e-commerce. It is responsible for the preparation of the Information Economy Report (IER) as well as thematic studies on ICT for Development.

The ICT Policy Section promotes international dialogue on issues related to ICTs for development and contributes to building developing countries' capacities to measure the information economy and to design and implement relevant policies and legal frameworks. It also monitors the global state of e-commerce legislation ([unctad.org/cyberlawtracker](http://unctad.org/cyberlawtracker)). Since 2016, the section has coordinated a new multi-stakeholders' initiative entitled eTrade for all ([etradeforall.org](http://etradeforall.org)), which aims to improve the ability of developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), to use and benefit from e-commerce.

Reference to companies and their activities should not be construed as an endorsement by UNCTAD of those companies or their activities.

The following symbols have been used in the tables:

Reference to "dollars" (US\$) means United States of America dollars, unless otherwise indicated;

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to the totals because of rounding.



## PREFACE

The eTrade for all Initiative, launched at the fourteenth Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD in July 2016, is a practical example of how to harness the digital economy in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 8, 9, and 17. The initiative seeks to raise awareness, enhance synergies, and increase the scale of existing and new efforts by the development community to strengthen the ability of developing countries to engage in and benefit from e-commerce by addressing seven relevant policy areas:

- E-commerce readiness assessment and strategy formulation
- ICT infrastructure and services
- Trade logistics and trade facilitation
- Payment solutions
- Legal and regulatory frameworks
- E-commerce skills development
- Access to financing

As part of the initiative, demand-driven assessments are envisaged to provide a basic analysis of the current e-commerce situation in the countries concerned, and to identify opportunities and barriers. The resulting reports will serve as a valuable input to these countries' involvement in various discussions related to e-commerce and the digital economy, including in the new UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

It may furthermore help LDCs to identify areas in which they could benefit from assistance by partners of eTrade for all.

The Liberia Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessment has benefited from excellent collaboration with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), which funded the assessment. This report is expected to contribute to the Government of Liberia's ongoing efforts to build a robust, safe and business-friendly e-commerce ecosystem.

With the EIF and other eTrade for all partners, UNCTAD is committed to continue supporting Liberia in its resolve to harness the potential of e-commerce for its development.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>NOTE.....</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>PREFACE.....</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>VII</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>FINDING UNDER THE SEVEN ETRADE FOR ALL POLICY AREAS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1. E-COMMERCE READINESS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY FORMULATION .....	7
2. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES.....	14
3. TRADE LOGISTICS AND TRADE FACILITATION .....	19
4. ACCESS TO FINANCING.....	25
5. PAYMENT SOLUTIONS .....	30
6. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.....	36
7. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR E-COMMERCE .....	38
<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>THE WAY FORWARD: ACTION MATRIX .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>ANNEX I: LIBERIA COUNTRY PROFILE ON ETRADEFORALL.ORG .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>ANNEX II: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND WEBSITES USED .....</b>	<b>52</b>



## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACE</b>	Africa Coast to Europe Submarine Cable
<b>ASYCUDA</b>	Automated System for Customs Data
<b>CBL</b>	Central Bank of Liberia
<b>COD</b>	Cash on Delivery
<b>DTIS</b>	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EIF</b>	Enhanced Integrated Framework
<b>GoL</b>	Government of Liberia
<b>ISP</b>	Internet Service Provider
<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunication Union
<b>IXP</b>	Internet Exchange Point
<b>KYC</b>	Know Your Customer
<b>LBA</b>	Liberia Bankers Association
<b>LCC</b>	Liberia Chamber of Commerce
<b>LEAF</b>	Loan Extension and Availability Facility
<b>LEDFC</b>	Liberian Enterprise Development Finance Company
<b>LIBA</b>	Liberia Business Association
<b>LINTA</b>	Liberia National Tourism Association
<b>LRD</b>	Liberian Dollar
<b>LTA</b>	Liberia Telecommunications Authority
<b>MoA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>MoCI</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MFDP</b>	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
<b>MFI</b>	Microfinance Institution
<b>MoL</b>	Ministry of Labour
<b>MFDP</b>	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
<b>MoPT</b>	Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
<b>MoPW</b>	Ministry of Public Works
<b>MoT</b>	Ministry of Transport
<b>MoYS</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>NAPAS</b>	National Postal Address System
<b>NDC</b>	National Data Center
<b>NPA</b>	National Port Authority
<b>NPL</b>	Non-Performing Loans



<b>NTFF</b>	National Trade Facilitation Forum
<b>NUAPS</b>	National Universal Access Program Strategy
<b>PRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>TF</b>	Trade Facilitation
<b>TFA</b>	Trade Facilitation Agreement
<b>TPO</b>	Trade Promotion Organization
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UAF</b>	Universal Access Fund
<b>UL</b>	University of Liberia
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UPU</b>	Universal Postal Union
<b>US\$</b>	US Dollar
<b>VLSA</b>	Village Savings and Loan Association
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization
<b>WAVF</b>	West Africa Venture Fund

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