

# Ensuring rights and choices for all in Liberia



Liberia  
Annual Report 2019



#### **Government Partners:**

.Ministry of Health .Ministry of Education .Ministry of Youth and Sports .Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection .Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services

#### **Implementing Partners:**

.Plan International Liberia .Partners in Health .Medical Teams International .Liberia Prevention of Maternal Mortality .Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery .Liberia Midwives Association .Population Policy Coordination Unit .Maternal and Child Health Advocacy International

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## FOREWORD

### Reaffirmed commitments, renewed hopes



Over the past 25 years, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has led global efforts to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, realize reproductive rights, and reduce maternal mortality.

By putting the rights, needs and aspirations of individual human beings at the center of sustainable development, 179 governments at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo endorsed a global programme of action with renewed commitments in Nairobi in November 2019; that linked women's empowerment, rights and

sexual and reproductive health to sustainable development.

In Liberia, we have much to look forward to, as UNFPA continues to promote rights and choices for all, especially women and young people.

We are committed to the transformative agenda of ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices for the people of Liberia. UNFPA will continue to work with the Government of Liberia and partners to make sure that population and demographic analysis are fully integrated into policy-making, planning and programming by leading efforts to ensure the participation of Liberia in the 2020 Round of Censuses.

In 2019, we reached close to 225,000 women, 362,325 adolescents and youth with sexual and reproductive health information and services.

UNFPA also distributed 1.6 million US dollars' worth of family planning commodities to various health facilities across the country to help women and couples with child spacing; making motherhood safer and healthier for women. Our efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence reached some 18,446 women, men and young people through the services and information provided by our partners. This includes more than 2,320 GBV survivors who received medical, psychosocial and legal assistance from the One Stop Centers we are supporting.

None of the progress and results highlighted in this report would be possible without the collaboration of key partners, including civil society organizations, fellow UN agencies and others, as well as the critical support of our donors.

With a new 2020-2024 Country Programme Document for Liberia, UNFPA has reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating and accelerating efforts to achieve the 'Three Zeros' of ending unmet need for family planning; ending preventable maternal death; and ending gender based violence and harmful practices.

Together with our partners, we will improve the quality of life and well-being of women and girls, especially the most disadvantaged. Together, we can deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Dr. Bannet Ndyanabangi  
Country Representative  
UNFPA Liberia

## COUNTRY PROFILE



4.3 million  
people



4.7 children  
per woman



75 percent  
aged under 35



19 percent  
modern  
contraceptive  
prevalence



35 percent  
adolescent  
pregnancy

Liberia's Gross Domestic Product of \$882 is among the lowest in the world according to the 2018 Human Development Index). As per the 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 50.9 percent of the population is poor (rural 71.6 per cent versus urban 31.5 percent).

The country is still recovering from the 2014-2015 Ebola virus disease outbreak in the Mano River Basin (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone)\*.

Sexual and reproductive health indicators remain poor. The maternal mortality ratio has increased from 994 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 1,072 per 100,000 live births in 2013\*\*.

Young people and women continue to face challenges in access to information and services regarding HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). HIV prevalence is nationally 2.1 percent\*.

Women, especially adolescent girls, experience deprivations due to harmful traditional practices and gender norms such as child marriage (19 per cent), teenage pregnancy and high levels of gender-based violence (GBV).

*\*As we finalized this 2019 annual report the COVID-19 pandemic had arrived at the shores of the country with its negative implications on all spheres of life already being felt.*

*\*\*Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS), 2013*



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## What we do



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UNFPA Country Programme of support to Liberia is focused on the following key areas:

- Women, adolescents and youth especially marginalized and furthest behind, have improved access to quality gender-responsive, comprehensive and integrated SRHR information and services, including family planning and STIs/HIV;
- Adolescents and youth, including the marginalized, youth with disabilities and those furthest behind, have skills and knowledge to claim and make informed choices about their SRHR and well-being;
- Strengthened national capacity to advance gender equality, prevent and respond to gender-based violence and harmful practices, and promote women and girls' empowerment;
- Enhanced capacities of the national statistics system to produce and use disaggregated population data to inform policy decision-making and development programming.

UNFPA's Programme is fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2024 for Liberia, which is also aligned with the government's Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018-2023.


## Ensuring no woman dies in childbirth

### KEY STATS

 1,072/100,000  
MMR

 33 percent  
teen  
pregnancy

 61 percent  
skilled birth  
attendance

 600-1,000  
estimated  
new cases  
of obtetric  
fistula  
every year

UNFPA works to support the Ministry of Health to expand women's access to skilled attendance at birth, increase the availability of basic and comprehensive essential obstetric and newborn care to treat pregnancy complications, provide Post Abortion Care (PAC) services by strengthening human resources for maternal health.



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## Key Results:

- Improved maternal and newborn care services rendered by 189 skilled birth attendants who received coaching in maternal and newborn care as part the Midwifery Association-led mentorship programme;
- 43 health facilities' capacity strengthened to provide sexual and reproductive health care;
- 2 midwifery training institutions equipped and funded to ensure 107 students end their programme on time;
- Quality maternal and newborn health services provided and skills transferred through the deployment of international OBGYN Specialists in Margibi and Montserrado to support skills transfer and mentorship;
- 44 survivors of obstetric fistula repaired through free surgery;
- Improved access to family planning information and services in 8 of 15 counties through community-based family planning by 408 trained community health workers administering Sayana press;
- 60 percent (9 out of 15) capacity strengthened to begin commodity data entry using eLMIS;
- Training of 11 non-physician clinicians to conduct obstetric emergencies including caesarean section leading to reduced maternal mortality by reducing home-based births and increasing the number of qualified providers of EmONC in collaboration with MCAI.

## Joy after a frightening preterm delivery in Liberia

KAKATA, Liberia – Out of nine pregnancies, Anna Bondo had suffered seven stillbirths, each one a crushing heartbreak. Every loss came as a result of premature labour, the 43-year-old told UNFPA. Last month, pregnant for the tenth time, Ms. Bondo once again went into an early labour. She immediately feared the worst.



“I was downhearted,” she said. “I thought I was going to lose my baby again.”

At 35 weeks, the birth would be considered “late preterm”, which comes with a host of risks for the baby, including respiratory distress. Most late preterm babies survive – but equipped health facilities and trained staff are essential to support their care.

Yet Liberia struggles to provide sufficient maternal and newborn care services. The country has one of the 10 highest maternal death rates in the world, and an extremely high infant mortality rate as well. A newborn has a 51 in 1,000 chance of dying in the first 28 days of life, according to 2017 data.

Quality health care can be especially hard for women to access outside the capital, such as in the largely rural Margibi County, where Ms. Bondo lives.

But this time, Ms. Bondo was lucky. She went to the C.H. Rennie Hospital, and was put into the capable hands of Dr. Susan Kimono, a Ugandan obstetrician and gynaecologist deployed to Margibi's Kakata City.

Dr. Kimono delivered a tiny girl who struggled to breathe. She required special care in the hours after delivery.

“As expected, the baby was born underweight, weighing just 1.6 kg. We immediately moved the newborn to the Neonatal Unit for intensive care,” Dr. Kimono explained.

The Neonatal Unit – supported by UNFPA and Maternal & Childhealth Advocacy International – provides critical care for premature and sick newborns.

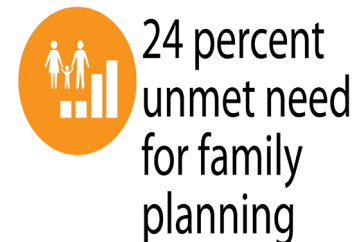
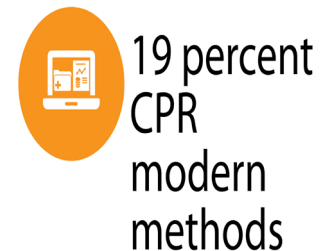
Ms. Bondo named her baby Dorcas. Together, they spent three weeks in the hospital, and were discharged on 13 August, both in good health. “My baby is alive and safe after 19 days spent under intensive care,” Ms. Bondo said. “If it was not for the doctors and nurses, my baby would not be alive today.”

In addition to providing life-saving care to women and their newborns, Dr. Kimono also provides training to junior doctors, nurses and midwives, acting as a mentor and guide both in the hospital and in post-graduate institutions throughout Liberia. “It is a blessing to have Dr. Kimono assigned with us at the C.H Rennie Hospital,” Yarkpazuo Kollie, a doctor-in-training, told UNFPA. “I have been able to acquire more skills in emergency obstetric care.”

UNFPA also supports midwifery schools and provides maternal health equipment and supplies to health facilities, part of broader efforts with the Government of Liberia to strengthen maternal health systems in the country.

# Ending unmet need for family planning

## KEY STATS



UNFPA and USAID remain the sole providers of family planning commodities to public health facilities across Liberia. The two agencies, in addition to the importation of FP commodities also support the management, storage and last mile distribution of RH commodities.

To ensure that couples, individuals, and adolescents in Liberia have access to the full range of quality and affordable family planning services at a location of their choice, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to expand the community distribution of family planning commodities across the country.

### Key results:

- Field testing of DMPA SC in Rivercess County with a cumulative 4,328 clients; and subsequent expansion across 8 of the 15 counties;
- 408 community health workers trained to administer DMPA SC in 8 counties;
- 60 skilled service providers for FP trained in LARC from across health facilities in Montserrado County;
- 60 percent of (9 of 15) counties capacity strengthened to collect FP data using eLMIS system;
- 173,889 clients received FP commodities and services.



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## All-in-one injectable contraceptive, subcutaneous DMPA warms the hearts of women in rural Liberia

Access to voluntary family planning is a human right. Yet, family planning remains out of reach for so many women and girls in Liberia. Thirty-one percent of couple who want to prevent unplanned pregnancy are not using a modern method of contraception; while only 21 percent of women of reproductive ages-15 to 49- have access to modern methods of family planning.

There are many factors that contribute to this gap – limited availability of services, cost, and a host of conditions that prevent women and men from accessing sexual and reproductive health services. These conditions include limited access to health facilities. About 60 percent of people in rural Liberia have to trek for more than an hour; that is over 5 kilometers before accessing a health facility. Moreover, services at the health facilities, especially quality family planning services is affected by inadequate skilled health providers.

“The Ministry of Health is cognizant of the challenges associated with accessing family planning services in Liberia. We want to sustain the gains made over the year. We want to increase the modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) from 30.3 percent in 2016 to 39.7 percent by 2022; thereby ensuring that all couples, individuals, and adolescents have access to the full range of quality and affordable family planning services at a location of their choice,” says Mrs. Bentoe Z. Tehoungue, Director, Family Health Division, Ministry of Health, Republic of Liberia.

Liberia is one of the beneficiaries of the Family Planning 2020 programme which “aims to expand access to family planning information, services, and supplies to an additional 120 million women and girls in 69 of the world’s poorest countries by 2020.”

“We recognize that Sayana Press [the all-in-one injectable contraceptive, subcutaneous DMPA] can overcome access barriers by enabling health worker administration in remote locations, and even self-injection that is why Liberia decided to join countries piloting the DMPA-SC,” Mrs. Tehoungue, said.

Through this family planning expansion programme, hundreds of women and girls have been reached in Rivercess County; one of the counties in which more than a third of women have an unmet need.

Nancy Benson is one of the beneficiaries. At age 17, Nancy is already a mother of two children. The first was born when she was 12. She started receiving the injectables three years ago after the birth of her second child. However, until February this year when the Community Health Assistant in her village started supplying her, she has had to miss some of her return dates due to the lack of transportation to access the services at the nearest health facility. “I thank God that I can receive the services right here in my village. I hope this can continue,” Nancy said.



*Nancy along with her two children*

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The Ministry of Health with the support from Ensuring that couples, individuals, and adolescents in Liberia have access to the full range of quality and affordable family planning services at a location of their choice would save lives and avert unintended pregnancies.

## Ensuring the potential of young people is fulfilled and HIV Prevention

### KEY STATS



75 percent  
of population  
35 years  
old and below



1 out of 3  
girls 15-19  
years old  
are already  
mother



34 percent  
of new HIV  
infections  
are among  
young  
people  
aged 15-34

UNFPA's support to Liberia to address challenges faced by adolescents and young people around sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) follow a Three Access Point Model (Community, School and Health Facility).

This is to ensure adolescents and young people are reached with a comprehensive package of SRHR information and services through a Multi-sectorial Platform.

As part of this strategic approach, UNFPA supports evidence-based advocacy for an enabling policy and programme environment for young people to access SRH/FP information and services; the delivery of gender sensitive, age-appropriate and life skills based Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to both in and out of school adolescents; community behavior change communication and awareness creation on SRH/FP information and services for very young adolescent; and capacity building of institutions and community structures to deliver quality youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.



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### Key Results:

- 230,342 adolescents and young people accessed SRHR services from health facilities and youth friendly centers supported by UNFPA;
- 131,983 young people received HIV counseling and testing;
- 143,714 condoms distributed;
- 124,000 young people from 250 schools completed sexuality education syllabuses;
- 9,801 young people reached with sexuality education through in and out of school settings;
- 66 adolescent girls gained knowledge and were empowered through training in menstrual hygiene management and SRH information dissemination;
- Improved access to PAC services for adolescents and young people by supporting 30 health facilities in the provision of quality PAC services;
- A midterm evaluation of the Empowered and Fulfilled programme implemented by the Government of Liberia with support from UNFPA and funded by the Embassy of Sweden in October 2019, showed an increase in the use of modern contraceptive method by adolescents in Southeastern Liberia (Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru); from a baseline of 24.7 percent in 2017 to 67 percent in 2019; and a decline in the overall incidence of teenage pregnancies among girls, age 15-19 years; 32 percent in 2017 to 24 percent in 2019.

### Adolescents take advantage of information and services to prevent unplanned pregnancies

Patience was 15, when she decided to date a boy who was three years older than her. Few months later, she became pregnant. “My parents asked me to leave their house when they realized that I was pregnant,” Patience said.

She moved with the boyfriend to his parent’s house where she stayed until she gave birth in 2015. “After I gave birth, I wanted to immediately go back to school but my boyfriend and his mother refused. They insisted that I remain at home to take care of the baby,” she said.



But in 2018, Patience took a bold step of vacating the boyfriend’s house; leaving the baby behind in the hope of going back to school. “On this day, I went to visit a friend. Upon arrival, I met a woman explaining about life skills education and family planning. I took interest in the discussion and asked how I could get additional information. She invited me to one of her community meetings. The lessons I learned during my first

attendance of the community meeting encouraged me to join the group as peer educator. Besides being a peer educator, I am also back in school,” Patience recounted.

Patience is a member of her school health club, which is part of the Empowered and Fulfilled programme being implemented by the Government of Liberia with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and funded by the Embassy of Sweden. The programme supports adolescents and young people to access age appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services and life skills education.

UNFPA has worked with the ministries of Education and Youth and Sports in Liberia to integrate and teach comprehensive sexuality education for both in and out of school adolescents and youth.

The programme uses communities, schools and health facilities to reach adolescents and young people with a comprehensive package of SRHR information and services with a goal to contribute to teenage pregnancy reduction in four southeastern counties of Liberia (Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru) with an average teenage pregnancy rate of 32 percent.

Through teachers, health clubs and health rooms, more adolescents are accessing SRHR information and services.

## Responding to SGBV and harmful practices

### KEY STATS



19 percent  
of girls are  
married  
before  
age 18



49.8 percent  
of women  
and girls  
subjected to  
FGM  
15-49 years



2664 SGBV  
cases  
reported in  
2019; rape  
(1,852)

UNFPA leads the response and data pillar for the SGBV prevention and response program of the UN and Government of Liberia Joint Programme on GBV and the Liberia Spotlight Initiative implemented together with UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNDP, and other UN agencies.

The UNFPA-led response pillar is focused on ensuring quality and efficient service provision to women and girls at risk or victimized by sexual and gender-based violence.

UNFPA supports the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in the provision of comprehensive survivor-centered support services for GBV survivors through the various One Stop Centers and safe homes across the country.

The One Stop Centers, which are linked to health facilities, provide integrated services to survivors including health (clinical management of rape, other routine services and referral for obstetric, gynecological services and other specialized health services, etc.), psychosocial support, legal and protection support for GBV survivors free of charge.

UNFPA, working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders succeeded in lobbying with the government of Liberia for the enactment of the Domestic Violence Law after almost six (6) years of advocacy at all levels.



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## Responding to SGBV and harmful practices Cont'd

With the support of UNFPA, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, and partners developed three strategic national documents to include, the national Clinical Management of Rape Training Manual, and revised the National Psychosocial Training Manual and the National Safe Home Guidelines.

As part of the European Union supported Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, UNFPA has been working through Plan International Liberia and constructed a social coping facility at the Sanniquellie Central Prison, where more than 53 inmates were being held for various SGBV related charges. Among the detainees were inmates both in pre-trial detention and those who have been convicted.

### Key Results:

- Improved referrals and reporting observed through the training of 22 community leaders on how to report or refer GBV cases;
- 12 SGBV One Stop Centers in 7 counties supported with essential drugs, dignity kits and infection control supplies;
- 2 One Stop Centers in Grand Bassa and Margibi counties refurbished and equipped;
- 23 health care providers trained in clinical management of rape;
- 2320 survivors of SGBV accessed integrated response and prevention services at various intervention points;
- 92 students and teachers from 15 schools in Bong and Margibi counties trained as GBV prevention peer educators and facilitators.



*The Sanniquellie Central Prison Coping Center for GBV offenders(above); Nimba County Safe Home for GBV survivors, Sanniquellie (below). ©UNFPA Liberia/Calixte S. Hessou*

## Data for planning and development

The national data system is weak with inadequate capacity and availability of timely and quality population data to inform development and humanitarian interventions.

UNFPA supports Liberia to strengthen the capacities of the national statistics system to produce and use disaggregated population data to inform policy decision-making and development programming. Key within this support mechanism is the conduct of regular demographic and health surveys and population and housing censuses.

The last time these two important population data collection processes happened were in 2008 for the population and housing census and 2013, the demographic and health survey. The delay in the conduct of the DHS and census was due to political transition and economic constraints.

However, UNFPA and other partners supported LISGIS to conduct the fieldwork and data collection and analysis for the DHS.

Moreover, the Government of Liberia with technical support from UNFPA declared their preparedness to ensure

that Liberia holds a successful census in 2021 and signed the National Population and Housing Census Project Document on 08 October 2019 in Monrovia.

The census is the first to employ digital technology in all processes and holds many benefits for the nation's socio-economic development. It will enable the use of small area estimates in policymaking and development planning, monitoring and evaluation that ensures that government can reach the furthest first and no one is left behind in a development process of the country.

UNFPA has recruited and deployed highly skilled international technical experts at LISGIS to ensure that the census is implemented in accordance with international standards and practices, especially regarding the use of technology to improve data quality, timeliness and accessibility.

Much of the resources needed (US\$18.5 m) for the census have been mobilized.



*Finance and Development Planning Minister, Mr. Samuel D. Tweh (left) in handshake with UNFPA Representative, Dr. Banmet Ndyanabangi after the signing ceremony of the Liberia Census 2021 Project Document on 08 October 2019 as the Director General of the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), Mr. Francis F. Wreh looks on.*



## Strengthening national capacity to deliver on various population issues



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UNFPA continued to support Liberia to formulate policies and plans to guide the delivery of quality gender-responsive, comprehensive and integrated SRHRs information and services, including family planning and STIs/HIV to foster national development.

### *Key Results:*

- Supported Liberia Midwifery Association to develop a five-year costing national strategic plan (2019-23) to guide midwifery development in the country;
- Supported the Ministry of Youth and Sports to revise the National Youth Policy and Action Plan (2019-2023);
- Supported the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to review the National Psychosocial Training Manual and the Safe Home Guidelines for GBV survivors;
- Supported the Ministry of Health to develop a manual on the Clinical Management of Rape.



## Advocacy and strategic partnerships

UNFPA continues to collaborate with other UN agencies, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and the media.

In 2019, UNFPA worked with partners on the following initiatives:

- Joint United Nations Programme of Support on Adolescents and Youth (2020-2024) with UNFPA serving as Administrative Agent. The programme is geared toward ensuring that the most vulnerable and excluded adolescents and youths have equitable access and utilization of essential social services; improved skills for job creation; and participate in decision-making at all levels to accelerate social cohesion and reconciliation for sustained peace.
- UNFPA as part of the UN Joint Team on AIDS and the National HIV/AIDS Technical working group contributed to the implementation of the UN Joint Programme of Support on HIV through the procurement of HIV test kits, STI kits, condoms as well targeted behavioral change HIV prevention programs that blend awareness, sensitization and advocacy with condom promotion.

- The establishment of institutional mechanisms at both national and sub-national levels in UNFPA-supported counties as platforms for facilitating young people's participation in Policy dialogue and programme planning and the integration of SRHR issues which

affect adolescents and youth, including the marginalized, into four sectorial strategies (Education, Finance and Development Planning, Gender, and Youth).

- Partnership with the Traditional Council of Liberia on the campaign to end child marriage

- Partnership with the Press Union of Liberia to launch Reporting on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Liberia Award for local journalists.



*The Chairman of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia, Chief Zanzan Kawor signs a commitment document on behalf of the Traditional Council of Liberia to end child marriage*



## ICPD@25 and UNFPA@50 celebration and launch of SWOP2019

The year 2019 was a critical year for UNFPA; celebrating ICPD@25 and UNFPA@50 anniversaries. Activities in observance of these two auspicious occasions were led by the Government of Liberia and UNFPA to also include the launch of the State of World Population 2019 report. They were held on 30 May in Monrovia.

### *Highlights...*



*Street Parade from the main campus of the University of Liberia to the Monrovia City Hall  
UNFPA Liberia/Calixte S. Hessou*



## ICPD@25 and UNFPA@50 celebration and launch of SWOP2019 Cont'd



*Swedish Ambassador, Her Excellency Madam Ingrid Wetterqvist presents the highlights of the State of the World Population Report 2019*



*The Vice President of Liberia, Hon. Chief Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor delivers the keynote address and officially launches the State of the World Population Report 2019*



## ICPD@25 and UNFPA@50 celebration and launch of SWOP2019 Cont'd



*The Vice President of Liberia, Hon. Chief Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor leads the cutting of the UNFPA@50 anniversary cake*

## ICPD@25: Liberia's commitment

The governments of Kenya and Denmark, and UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, organized a high-level-The Nairobi Summit on ICPD@25- to mobilize the political will and financial commitments urgently needed to finally and fully implement the Programme of Action agreed to by 179 governments in 1994 at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

At this meeting, Liberia committed to ensuring the availability of family planning information and services to all in the country by the year 2030.

“The Government of Liberia commits to ensuring zero unmet need for family planning information and services and universal availability of quality affordable and safe modern contraceptive by 2030;”

said Vice President Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor as she addressed the opening session of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25.

Chief Dr. Howard-Taylor also stressed the need to accelerate critical reforms that go beyond the health sector; changing negative social norms, laws and policies that negatively affect human rights, especially gender equality.

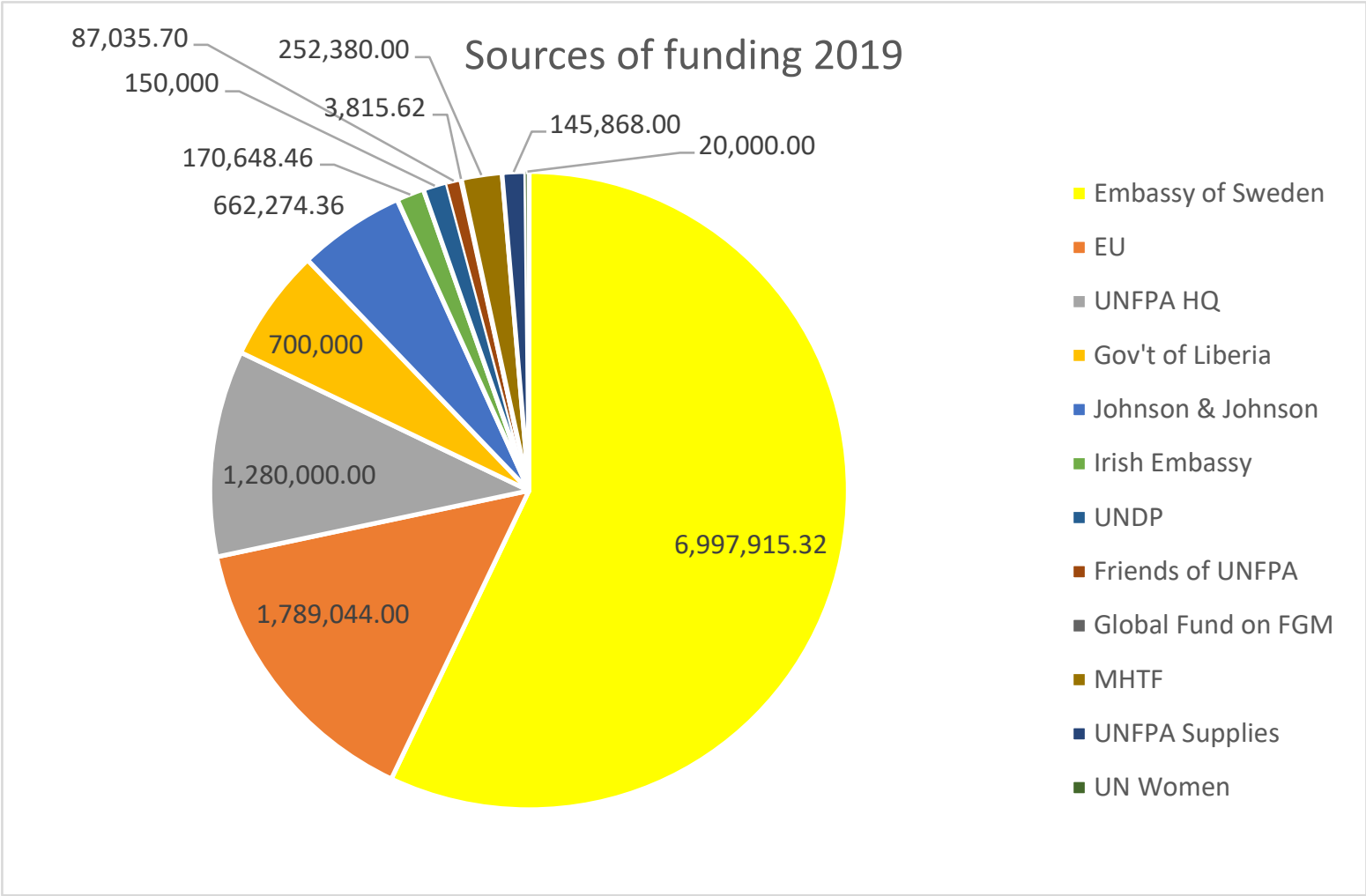
The Liberian delegation at the summit was headed by Vice President Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor and included the Minister of Gender Children and Social Protection, Mrs. Williametta Piso Saydee-Tarr; Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Mrs. Audrian Reuby Smith-Forbes, Hon. Larry Younquoi, Chairman, Liberia Parliamentary Council on Population and Development and a host of young people including Ms. Daintowon Paybayee and Hulihamatu Diallo.



*Vice President Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor addresses Nairobi Summit on ICPD@25*

# Resources mobilized

In 2019, UNFPA Liberia received funding supports around USD 12.6 million in support of the Country Programme. UNFPA is grateful to the following donors/funders for their contributions:





## Moving forward: the new Country Programme

The year 2019 marked the end the Fourth Country Programme (2013 – 2017) and with extensions (2018-2019), which contributed significantly to:

- Improving EmONC services and rebuilding the county-level health infrastructure and capacity lost during the 2014 Ebola virus disease crisis
- Supporting the quality analysis and dissemination of the 2013 LDHS findings
- Introducing a nationwide comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) curricula
- Supporting gender policy and advocacy with other United Nations agencies with tangible results
- Strengthening national capacities to implement sexual and gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian crisis.

However, there remain challenges including:

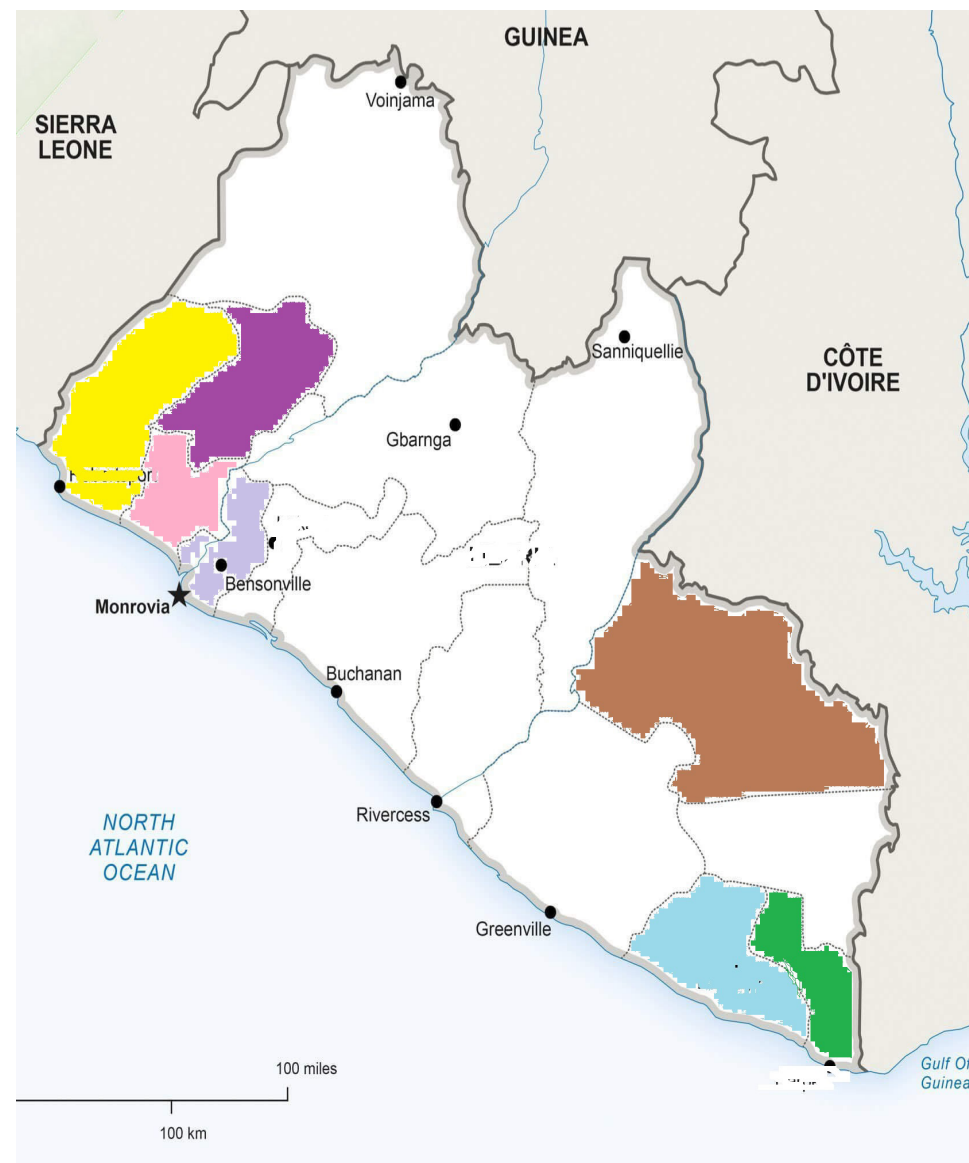
- Weak EmONC monitoring and networks
- Limited capacity and number of human resources for health (midwives and doctors)
- Low level awareness on gender and gender-based violence legal framework

- Delayed implementation of the African union roadmap on demographic dividend

- Weak capacity and collaboration amongst key institutions responsible for data availability, analysis, use and dissemination, including in humanitarian settings.

Thus, the fifth country programme (2020-2024) is based on the above priorities. It is fully aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2020-2024, which is also aligned with the government Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018-2023. The programme was developed alongside the United Nations partnership framework under the leadership of the Government with civil society and other United Nations agencies. It makes allowance for Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 5, 10 and 17.

Overall, the programme is to contribute to the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHRs) through the three transformative goals of zero maternal death, zero unmet needs for family planning and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices by ensuring nationwide provision of reproductive health commodities with Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado as focus counties.





United Nations Population Fund

Delivering a world where  
every pregnancy is wanted  
every childbirth is safe and  
every young person's  
potential is fulfilled

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