

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

# TOWARD THE 3 ZEROS IN LIBERIA:

A Snapshot of UNFPA's  
Achievements in 2022

### **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  
Population Policy Coordination Unit

### **Implementing Partners**

Plan International Liberia  
Partners in Health  
BRAC Liberia  
Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery

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# Foreword

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, remains firmly committed to achieving the three transformative results – ending the unmet need for family planning, ending preventable maternal deaths, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and teen pregnancy in Liberia by 2030. To do this, we need to accelerate progress and transform how we do business.

As the United Nations' sexual and reproductive health and rights organisation, our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person reaches their full potential.

As we have grown from strength to strength in recent years, UNFPA takes pride in the work we do each day to empower women and young people – in particular, adolescent girls – often under challenging circumstances. Our results speak for themselves. As we near the Sustainable Development 2030 goal post, there are increasing expectations for us to continue to deliver results where it matters the most.

We must intensify our effort to tackle harmful gender norms and inequalities, invest in young people and protect the bodily autonomy of women and girls. At UNFPA we believe that data and evidence underpin all of this, and we must continue to generate data and understand population dynamics and trends in a manner that helps us to assure that all women and men, and girls and boys, enjoy the dignity and human rights to expand their capabilities, secure their reproductive health and rights, find decent work, and contribute to economic growth.

Undoubtedly, the availability of a high-quality population data at national, sectoral, and local levels is crucial to designing and sustaining Liberia's policy responses and effective development programmes, including macro-economic management, preparation and implementation of poverty reduction programmes, and monitoring programmes towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, UNFPA provided technical and financial support to the Government to undertake the 5th National Population and Housing Census. Led by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the 2022 Census used a state-of-the-art geospatial census monitoring dashboard and Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) technology in all aspects of its implementation. As a comprehensive digital census, it leveraged the available technology to improve operational efficiency and enhance the quality of the data collected. These strategies enabled preempting operation/logistics challenges, remotely monitoring, and reporting fieldwork progress, assessing data quality, and correcting errors and inconsistencies while enumerators were still in the field.

Our efforts to ensure rights and choices for all in Liberia by ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for





family planning, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage, teen pregnancy, and female genital mutilation, have remained on course.

In Liberia, just under one third of young women aged 15-19 are pregnant with their first child or have already given birth. Christiana is one of them; she gave birth in December 2022, aged 16. She had to drop out of school, as her parents asked her to leave their house when they realized she was pregnant. Christiana lives in Greenville in Liberia's southeastern region, where the Government has targeted efforts to provide young people with age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and services since 2017. Since the launch of this programming with UNFPA's support, adolescent pregnancies across five counties in southeastern Liberia have reduced by almost half. Christiana found out about the sexual and reproductive education programming through a friend and began attending community meetings on life skills and family planning. The lessons encouraged her to begin taking contraceptives and join the group as a peer educator. She told us that she plans to return to school in September 2023.

During my mission to the southeastern counties of Liberia, I also met Fatu, a 10-year-old girl. I wondered if and how Fatu could have the agency to delay her sexual debut, complete her school and go on to fulfill her potential. The answer lay in her gaining access to age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information to make informed decisions, through the UNFPA supported comprehensive sexuality education in school, and access to services through youth friendly centers in the health facility.

But these are just two stories of the thousands we could tell.

Working alongside our Partners, UNFPA is proud to have helped, among others:

- More than 500,000 individuals to receive sexual and reproductive health information and services, including family planning,
- Nearly 3000 SGBV survivors to receive medical, psychosocial, and protection services.
- Avert an estimated 93,000 unintended pregnancies.

We continued to adapt, innovate and, working closely with our partners, ensured that our solutions were best suited to the context and need in Liberia, whether it was maternity waiting homes, or SRH and GBV services to At-Risk (substance using) youth.

UNFPA highly values our partnership with the Government of Liberia, civil society organizations, implementing partners, sister UN agencies, and our donors. The progress and results highlighted in this report were only possible with your support.

With strengthened partnership and continued support, we can do more together, and continue to deliver results for the women, girls, and young people of Liberia.

**Ms. Bidisha Pillai**  
Country Representative  
UNFPA Liberia

# Country profile



**5.3 MILLION POPULATION**



**79 PERCENT**  
UNDER AGE 35



**4.2**  
**TOTAL FERTILITY RATE**  
(AVERAGE NO. OF CHILDREN PER WOMAN)



**LIFE EXPECTANCY:**  
FEMALE: 66 YEARS  
MALE: 64 YEARS

Liberia is a low-income country. Approximately 79 percent of the nearly 5.3 million population are under the age of 35. Most of the population lives in urban areas, with Monrovia, the capital, alone accounting for a third of the population.

Young people and women continue to face challenges accessing economic and social amenities, including quality sexual and reproductive health information and services. Adolescent girls experience deprivation due to harmful traditional practices and gender norms, that perpetuate teenage pregnancy and high levels of gender-based violence (GBV) daily.

Vulnerable young females tend to trade sex for favors or money, thereby increasing their risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections (including HIV), unwanted pregnancy, sexual and gender-based violence, and trafficking. There is a critical need for strategic interventions with a multiplier effect on health system strengthening to reduce the national disease burden, of which maternal and child health conditions constitute 60 percent.

While Liberia has progressed in guaranteeing equality between men and women through legislation and policies, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is still widely acknowledged to affect women and girls in schools, communities, homes, and workplaces. Gender inequalities are deeply entrenched in society, including stereotypes and prejudice against women, the exclusion of women in decision-making, and high levels of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual violence against minors, child marriage, sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, and forced child marriage are rife.

*[Note: Liberia concluded its 5th National Population and Housing Census in December 2022. Provisional results released by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) have put the Country's population at 5.2 million. However, data on Liberia's population used in this publication are from the UN Population Dashboard. This report could not use data released by LISGIS since they are provisional.]*







# Where we work


 Liberia  
 UNFPA Country Programme



 UNFPA COUNTRY OFFICE

 UNFPA PROGRAMME AREAS

 UNFPA FIELD OFFICE



# What we do

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In support of the Government of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Liberia, UNFPA works to ensure:

- Women, adolescents, and youth especially the 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.

# Ending preventable maternal deaths

Almost a quarter (24 percent) of Liberia's population comprises women of reproductive age. But for many women and their families, the joy of motherhood can sometimes leave an unforgettable experience as the death of women in childbirth remains one of the highest in the sub-region, with 742 per 100,000 live births. Many women who survive difficult and prolonged labor often suffer debilitating childbearing injuries including obstetric fistula.

Thus, to ensure that efforts to end preventative maternal deaths remain on track, the implementation of maternal health interventions focused on improving access to skilled birth attendants and sexual and reproductive information and services.

## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- More than 180 skilled birth personnel mentored in midwifery competencies in Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties by the Liberia Midwives Association (LMA) with technical and financial support from UNFPA.
- Liberia Midwives Association supported to develop a five-year (2023 to 2027) Midwifery Strategy and Operational Plan to guide midwifery interventions in the country during the stated period.
- A South-South learning exchange opportunity and networking facilitated with the Ethiopian Midwives Association to strengthen the leadership capacities of the Liberia Midwives Association (LMA).



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*Investing in midwives saves lives.*



**742/100,000**  
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO



**3 OUT OF 10**  
Girls 15-19 ARE  
ALREADY MOTHERS



**84 PERCENT**  
SKILLED BIRTH  
ATTENDANCE



**600-1,000**  
ESTIMATED  
NEW CASES OF  
OBSTETRIC FISTULA  
EVERY YEAR





*A group of pregnant women at the Bahn Health Center Maternity Waiting home, Bahn, Nimba County.*

- Technical and financial support provided to the Ministry of Health to develop a new National Health Policy and Plan, 2023–2031, and a new Essential Package of Health Services; ensuring critical aspects of sexual reproductive health and rights are included in both documents.
- Public hearings by the National Legislature supported towards the passage of the Public Health Bill drafted and submitted to the body by the Ministry of Health. When passed, the SRHR component of the Bill will ensure access to family planning services by adolescents without parental consent by removing the current restrictions and increasing access to safe abortion care services by women and girls. It will also oblige the Government to enforce respectful maternity care and improve quality maternal care services; reinforce the importance of counseling and ensure partner tracing for sexually transmitted infections information, diagnosis, treatment, and management.
- Essential drugs, medical supplies, HIV test kits, condoms, family planning commodities, and other life-saving maternal health drugs procured and distributed to 56 health facilities and 63 community outreach centers across eight counties including Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe, River Cess, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado.



## KEY RESULTS

- 144,300 pregnant women received four antenatal care visits.
- Over 9,200 Caesarean sections; constituting nearly 8 percent (7.6%) of all institutional deliveries.
- Nearly 121,400 institutional deliveries with 91 percent conducted by skilled personnel.
- 208 midwives graduated from midwifery schools with technical support from UNFPA.
- 38 newly graduated midwives passed the National Licensure Examinations awaiting deployment nationwide.
- 14 Nurse Anesthetics students graduated from the UNFPA-supported Nurse Aesthetics training program and have been deployed at Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care services (CEmONC) facilities in Liberia.
- 24 women and girls with obstetric fistulas were treated with an 88 percent success rate.
- Passage of the draft Public Health Bill by the House of Representatives pending concurrence by the Senate.
- Over 181,200 first antenatal care visits by pregnant women.



## Maternity waiting homes provide safe space for pregnant women

Rita arrived at the Bahn Health Center to await the delivery of her baby. It took her two hours on a motorbike to reach the health center.

Rita, 30, now carrying her fifth pregnancy, is being treated for malaria, which she contracted in her eighth month. During her last delivery, assisted by a traditional birth attendant, she experienced a potentially fatal complication. Luckily, she was referred to a health facility and survived.

*"I am here to wait for my time to deliver because I don't want to go through the same problem I went through the last time when I decided to deliver my baby at home with the Traditional Birth Attendant. I nearly died," says Rita.*

*"I am happy to stay here, and I hope my delivery by a professional midwife will go very well. I don't worry anymore as the midwife will help me have a safer delivery here," she adds.*

To reduce the dangers of childbirth in remote rural areas, high-risk mothers are encouraged to stay in a safe and clean 'maternity waiting home' to ensure skilled birth attendants assist their deliveries.

In September 2021, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, established a 24-bed maternity waiting home at the Bahn Health Center in Bahn, Nimba County, with the support of the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative. The facility provides women in the final stages of pregnancy residing in distanced communities with accommodation where they will ultimately deliver under the care of a skilled birth attendant.

This effort to increase births managed by skilled personnel seems to be working at the Bahn Health Center. "Before the Maternal Waiting Home, we used to have a monthly average delivery of 60. Now, we are having between 80 to 90 deliveries per month," says Lorin D. Yeapeh, one of the two assigned midwives.

The Bahn Health Center serves a catchment population of about 35 thousand people scattered across 28 communities.

According to the Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2019-20, the maternal mortality ratio is 742 deaths per 100,000 live births. While this figure represents an improvement from 2013, which was 1072 deaths per 100,000 live births, Liberia still has much work to do to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of bringing its maternal mortality ratio down to 70 deaths per 100,000 live births.



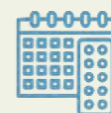
# Ending unmet need for family planning

Access to safe, voluntary family planning is a human right. Family planning is central to gender equality and women's empowerment, and a critical factor in reducing poverty. Yet in Liberia, an estimated 33 percent of women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using safe and effective family planning methods, for reasons ranging from lack of access to information or services to the lack of support from their partners or communities.

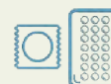
UNFPA supports efforts to ensure women and girls in Liberia have access to unrestricted family planning information and services include ensuring a steady, reliable supply of quality contraceptives; strengthening national health systems; advocating for policies supportive of family planning; and gathering data to support this work.

## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- 1.2 million clients counseled for family planning services.
- Nearly 516,000 reproductive health commodities procured and distributed nationwide.
- Over 105,000 women and girls were reached with family planning services through community distribution of family planning commodities.
- Provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Health to strengthen the capacity of 200 staff including depot managers, dispensers, and warehouse keepers from 168 health facilities in Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Rivercess and Margibi in supply chain management: review of requisitions and reporting tools and effective inventory management.



**25 PERCENT**  
CONTRACEPTIVE  
PREVALENCE RATE  
(ALL METHODS)



**24 PERCENT**  
CONTRACEPTIVE  
PREVALENCE RATE  
(MODERN METHODS)



**33 PERCENT**  
UNMET NEED FOR  
CONTRACEPTION



*Midwives do not only deliver babies but also provide critical reproductive health services, including family planning.*

- Supported the Ministry of Health to pilot the use of commercial motorcyclists for reproductive health commodities and supplies distribution from county depots to health facilities in 20 hard-to-reach communities in Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties.
- 314 Community Health Assistants trained to administer injectable contraceptives (DMPA-SC/SayanaPress) in addition to supporting the Ministry of Health to train 103 healthcare providers as part of piloting the self-injection family planning method in four other counties in collaboration with Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).





*Access to sexual and reproductive health information and services is fulfilment of girls' rights.*

## KEY RESULTS

- Improved availability of reproductive health services in Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties through the timely provision of reproductive health commodities and supplies to 20 hard-to-reach communities in the two counties.
- The signing of the Compact Agreement on financing Reproductive Health Commodities by the Government of Liberia; committing 2 percent of the expected UNFPA funding as its contribution to the procurement of contraceptives in 2023.
- Close to 527,600 persons received family planning services.
- Over 93,000 unintended pregnancies averted.
- An estimated 71,434 abortions (including miscarriage and unsafe abortions) averted.
- An estimated 373 maternal and 1,481 child deaths averted.
- Estimated 228,329 women prevented pregnancies because of use of contraceptives (Couple Year Protection (CYP)).



## -Story-

### Adolescent Mother Calls for Increased Family Planning Coverage

Sarah is 14 years old and at school, in the third grade. She is also a mother to a two-month-old baby. Sarah lives in Airfield Community in Harper, Maryland County.

She became pregnant after leaving Harper, where she was accessing regular conception services, to spend some time with her parents in a remote community.

*Sarah explains: "During the end of the school year in August 2021, I traveled to Cavalla Kunokudi to see my parents. While I was there, I could not get refilled because there are no family planning services in the town. I got pregnant because of having unprotected sex."*

According to Sarah, she felt like all hope had been lost at that point.

However, she credited the JJD Hospital Youth-Friendly Center in Harper for the counseling service and support they provided to her.

*"I received constant follow-up and counseling regarding my antenatal care (ANC) up to delivery in April this year. I got back on my injectable in May 2022 as I don't want a repeat of the mistake that I made," Sarah said.*

Meanwhile, Sarah wants every girl in Liberia, no matter where she lives, to have access to family planning services. According to Sarah, she would not have been a mother at age 14 if family planning services were available throughout the country.

*"I can imagine the struggles that girls my age experience when they are not within the reach of family planning information and services," Sarah says.*

UNFPA is fostering youth-friendly health services in Liberia through the establishment of youth-friendly centers linked to health facilities in targeted counties. These youth-friendly centers provide a comprehensive package of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services including voluntary contraception/family planning, HIV prevention, and post-abortion care.

# Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) remains a significant challenge to the security, growth, health, and development of women and girls in Liberia. Rape, physical abuse, and other forms of violence against women and girls continue unabated in homes, communities, educational settings, and society at large despite several efforts by the Government and partners to end these vices.

UNFPA works in partnership with the Government, civil society organizations, and other partners to support interventions to end violence against women and girls, including through prevention programming, service delivery, policies and laws, and data and research.

Our contribution cuts across all sectors: health (clinical management of rape and other reproductive health interventions), psychosocial (psychosocial counselling, trauma healing, and rehabilitation), legal (capacity building and the provision of logistics for adequate investigation, documentation, case file preparation, as well as enhancing prosecution), protection (safe home), and community engagement and empowerment (capacity building and provision of logistical support to women peace huts, rape observatory, religious and traditional leaders, women and youth engagements).

## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- 40 members of nine (9) Women Peace Huts supported by UNFPA trained on Gender-Based Violence prevention and response mechanisms; 150 adolescents and youth and 47 religious leaders on the prevention and response to sexual gender-based violence and the promotion of sexual reproductive health and rights; 40 staff of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection including psychosocial



**12.3 PERCENT**  
OF GIRLS ARE MARRIED  
BEFORE AGE 18



**38 PERCENT**  
OF WOMEN & GIRLS  
15-49 SUBJECTED TO  
FGM



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
PREVALENCE AMONG  
WOMEN & GIRLS**  
AGED 15-19: 53.7 PERCENT  
AGED 20-24: 66.8 PERCENT



**2075 SGBV CASES  
REPORTED IN 2021**  
RAPE: 75 PERCENT  
SEXUAL ASSAULT:  
13 PERCENT  
PHYSICAL/DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE: 5 PERCENT

counsellors, social workers, and paraprofessionals on effective psychosocial interventions and support for SGBV survivors and those with other SRHR needs; and 70 SGBV response service providers including health workers, psychosocial counsellors, and law enforcement officers on the Integrated Essential Services Packages (IESP) for Reproductive Health & Rights and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV/SRHR).

- Reached 2,795 women and girls who had survived violence with psychosocial social services in safe homes, orphanages, transit homes, and communities in five counties.
- Reached more than 11, 000 women and girls with SGBV/SRHR services in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, and other partners.
- Reached more than 14,500 individuals with SGBV prevention and SRHR information through community outreach sessions.
- Supported the strengthening of the GBV data infrastructure at the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection through the training of 126 (one hundred twenty-six) SGBV service providers from across the 15 counties to utilize a digital data collection platform (Kobo Toolbox). This system is expected to resolve the challenge of data inaccuracy and delayed reporting by migrating the data from paper-based systems which have been used in the 15 counties for the collection of GBV data to a digital platform.
- Supported Liberia's GBV system strengthening by constructing a GBV response unit at the St. Timothy Hospital and a social coping and rehabilitation center at the Robertsport Central Prison, in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County; and refurbishing the GBV and MCH units at the Lofa Bridge Health Center (Grand Cape Mount County), and the GBV Units at the Phebe Hospital (Bong County) and the Foyah Boma Hospital and the Curran Lutheran Hospital (Lofa County).

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*When empowered and given the right opportunities, adolescent and young girls can become effective drivers of change.*





## KEY RESULTS

- A KoBo collect tool-box platform available at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to facilitate a systematic reporting of GBV incidents pending the development and roll-out of an integrated and comprehensive GBVIMS system.
- 11,400 adolescent girls received information and services on GBV prevention and menstrual hygiene including the supply of disposable and non-disposable sanitary pads across 512 schools in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President of Liberia.



*Pathologist Dr. Benedict Kolee demonstrates how samples are collected and analyzed at the National Forensic Laboratory in Monrovia. The availability of forensic evidence is critical for the conviction of rape perpetrators in court.*

- 115 (males 23, females 92) government service providers improved their knowledge and skills in clinical management of rape and delivery of integrated essential SGBV response services for women and girls, survivors of SGBV.
- Improvement of access, availability, and awareness of multi-sectoral integrated services through the roll-out and implementation of the Integrated Essential Service Package, which in turn led to an increase in the number of service users: 22,558 direct beneficiaries (7,479 women, 11,342, girls, 1,235 men, 2,502 boys) who accessed multi-sectoral services at different service provision levels. These services included psychosocial support, counselling, referrals, family planning and survivor services (case management, counselling, access to justice and economic empowerment).
- An early warning response mechanism to help detect, prevent, and respond to Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBVs) and Harmful Practices (HPs), as well as promote Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHRs) information and services was established and institutionalized through Peace Hut Women.



## **Hundreds of At-Risk Youth Receive GBV and SRH Services**

It is estimated that 2 in 10 youth in Liberia are users of narcotic substances.

Once hooked on narcotic substances, many of them, particularly women and girls, become exposed to GBV and repeatedly subjected to sexual assaults leading to the development of sexual and reproductive health complications.

Consequently, more than 2,500 disadvantaged youths in 2022 received sexual and gender-based response and reproductive health services, including family planning and HIV counseling and testing across various communities in Monrovia and its environs.

The EU-funded Spotlight Initiative-funded targeted disadvantaged adolescents and youth survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) residing in hotspots and ghettos and unable to access health facilities.

In addition, to avoid the risk of losing an entire generation of young people to drugs and to help them realize their full potential, the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Youth & Sports, in collaboration with the United Nations and other stakeholders, in June 2022, launched a multi-year, multi-sectoral, Programme for addressing the needs of At-Risk Youth. The 10-year programme aims to rehabilitate, empower, and reintegrate At-Risk Youth into their communities as healthy, productive, and engaged citizens.

# Empowering adolescents and youths

Adolescents and young people account for more than two-thirds of Liberia's population. Yet, many of them are unable to participate fully in society. They are often restricted by the lack of opportunities to decide about their bodies and life-course development opportunities such as health, education, and employment. For many adolescent girls, this lack of options often leads them to early pregnancies and childbirth.

UNFPA supports the Government to empower adolescents and young people through a multisectoral and innovative three-access point model (community, school, and health facilities) to deliver an integrated package of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based GBV information and services in a youth-friendly manner.

## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Provided technical and financial support to the Government to provide SRHR information and services in six South-Eastern counties through sexuality education using the revised National Curriculum and out-of-school manual to reach young people in and out-of-school settings.
- Supported the training of 223 adolescent girls in economic livelihood skills in Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties.
- Supported the establishment of school health rooms in four schools across Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and Lofa to promote good hygiene practices by female students and prevent infections in schools.
- Strengthened the capacity of 54 health facilities and 63 outreach sites in Maryland, Rivercess, Grand Kru, Sinoe, Grand Gedeh, and River Gee



**40 PERCENT**  
POPULATION AGED 0-14



**32 PERCENT**  
POPULATION AGED 10-24



**79 PERCENT**  
NET ENROLMENT RATE  
PRIMARY EDUCATION



**67 PERCENT**  
OF WOMEN AGED 10-24  
MAKE UP WOMEN OF  
REPRODUCTIVE AGE 15-19:



**18.7 PERCENT**  
CONTRACEPTIVE PREVA-  
LENCE RATE AMONG  
ADOLESCENT AGED 15-19



**34 PERCENT**  
OF NEW HIV INFECTIONS  
ARE AMONG YOUNG  
PEOPLE AGED 15-34





counties to deliver youth-friendly services to young people through the provision of drugs, medical supplies, technical support, and performance motivation for clinical staff.

- Provided technical support for the UN & Government of Liberia Joint Programme for the Rehabilitation and Empowerment of At-Risk Youth (youth on drugs); a 10-year programme geared at rehabilitating and transforming the lives of youth involved in drugs and substance abuse.

## KEY RESULTS

- 160, 273 (135,621 females, 24,652 males) adolescents and young people in and out of school settings were reached with comprehensive sexuality education.
- Nearly 372,500 young people received an integrated package of services including contraception services Antenatal Care, and prevention and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).
- About 22,300 At-Risk Youth were reached with reproductive health information and services, including family planning, hygiene, dignity kits, STIs treatment, and HIV counseling and testing.
- 568 adolescent girls and young women graduated from the UNFPA-supported economic livelihood skills training programme in Grand Cape Mount County.



*Comprehensive sexuality education empowers young people to know, demand and protect their rights*

## -Story-

### Youth-friendly centers provide hope for an adolescent girl

A 16-year-old girl at the Tweh Jaiklay High School in Fish Town, River Gee County, says she has gained self-confidence due to her membership in a school health club.

Evon Teh is a victim of an unplanned pregnancy. She recounts: *"I got into a sexual relationship after losing my parents in a motor accident at a tender age. Because of the lack of support, I started going out with someone who was older than me."*

A month later, Evon became pregnant after which the man left her. *"I had to do this because I could not even afford a meal daily. But what I thought would have been a relief became a burden for me because I am left to care for the child alone," she said.*

However, Evon is keen not to make the same mistake, as having a child to support without an income has proved difficult for her.

"I'm seeing my life going down because my child is another burden," she says.

Armed with confidence and knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and Rights information due to her membership with the school health club, Evon is now on a long-acting reversible contraceptive, as a family planning method. As part of their tasks, members of the school health club provide SRHR information and referral pathways to youth friendly centers for fellow students and peers.

The activities of the Tweh Jaiklay High School Health Club are supported by UNFPA through BRAC Liberia in collaboration with the River Gee County health and education authorities.

UNFPA fosters youth-friendly health services by providing comprehensive sexuality education for both in-and-out-school youth at youth-friendly centers linked to health facilities in targeted counties. These youth-friendly centers provide a comprehensive package of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services including voluntary family planning, HIV prevention and testing as well as post-abortion care to mainly adolescents and young people.



# Data for development planning

The availability of quality socio-economic and demographic data in Liberia has been seriously hampered by a mix of low economic and human development with a fragile socio-political situation resulting from the 14-year civil war between 1990 and 2003. The destruction of databases, statistical capacities, equipment, and personnel loss has exacerbated the data gaps.

Designing and sustaining the country's post-conflict policy responses and effective development programmes, including macro-economic management, preparation, and implementation of poverty reduction programmes, monitoring programmes towards Sustainable Development Goals, etc., requires the timely availability of high-quality, sufficient, and related data at national, local, and sectoral levels.

*Liberia National Population and Housing Census field monitoring by partners and donor*





Consequently, the Government of Liberia, after the 2008 National Population and Housing Census, decided to conduct a population and housing census every ten years to maintain up-to-date socio-economic and demographic data.

However, the post-election arrangements in 2017 could not permit the undertaking to begin in 2018 as planned.

Nonetheless, the Government of Liberia and its development partners led by UNFPA signed the National Population and Housing Census Project Document on October 8, 2019, to kick start the process within the framework of the internationally stipulated decennial periodicity of the exercise for the 2020 Round of Population Censuses.

## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Provided technical and financial support to the Government of Liberia through the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) to conduct the count of the 2022 National Population and Housing Census. The support includes resource mobilization, questionnaire design, recruitment and deployment of technical and field personnel, and deployment of a census dashboard for real-time monitoring and continuous data validation at the various levels of operations. The 2022 National Population and Housing Census is Liberia's first complete digital census. It used state-of-the-art geospatial, census monitoring dashboard and Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) technology in all aspects of its implementation.
- Supported the training of 40 (forty) students in evidence-based data collection, analysis, and research seminar paper presentation in collaboration with the Institute of Population Studies at the University of Liberia.
- Renovated and equipped the Resource Learning Center at the Institute of Population Studies with 10 desktop computers, internet connectivity, statistical analysis software, and a 5 KVA generator for power generation.
- Provided technical and financial assistance to the Ministry of Health to conduct the 2022 Reproductive Health Commodity Security Survey to determine the availability of modern contraceptives and essential lifesaving maternal and reproductive health medicines in service delivery points.
- In collaboration with other UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, RCO) supported the Institutional Mapping and Assessment of different Civil Registration & Vital Statistics (CRVS) Databases /Information Management Systems to support CRVS and Identity Management in Liberia.

## KEY RESULTS

- Successful conduct of the 2022 Liberia National Population and Housing Census using state-of-the-art geospatial, census monitoring dashboard and Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) technology with the provisional results as highlighted below:
  - o Total Population on the Census Night of 11th/12th November 2022: 5.2 million (5,248,621).
  - o Intercensal Growth: 3.0.
  - o Sex Composition: 50.4 percent males; and 49.6 percent females.
  - o Households Size: 4.4.
  - o Population and Households by Residence: 51.9 percent Urban; and 48.1 Rural.



*Bodily autonomy for girls puts them in control of their lives; leads to healthier families, higher levels of gender equality and, in turn, stronger societies and more vibrant economies.*

# Strategic partnerships



UNFPA maintained its collaborative effort with a range of partners from the UN, the Government, and Civil Society in the implementation of the 5th Country Programme. Among the key partnerships are: Reproductive Health Technical Committee, National GBV Taskforce, The EU and UN Spotlight to eliminate violence against women and girls, The Inter-Agency Youth Taskforce, The UN M&E Working Group, The UN Legal Identity Agenda (UNLIA), The Inter-Agency Programming Team, The Gender Theme Group, The UN Human Rights Working Group, National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Technical Working Group, The UN Joint Team on HIV & AIDS, The Inter-Agency Working Group on Disability.

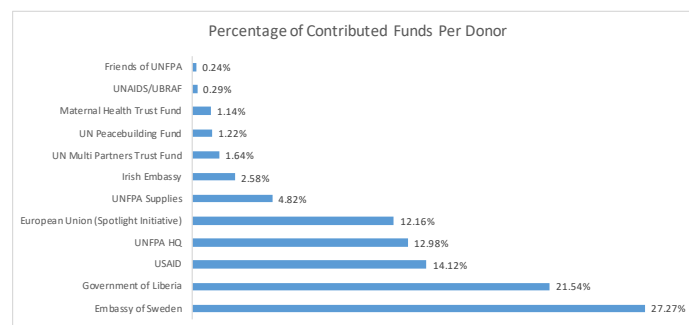
With a determination to improve programming for results, UNFPA Liberia, with the guidance of the Regional Office, aligned the current 5th Country Programme to the UNFPA Strategic Plan by developing a strategic

results matrix aligned with the acceleration agenda. The outputs and outcomes of the adjusted Country Programme and results matrix were validated by key stakeholders, including donors, relevant government ministries, and NGO implementing partners.

Additionally, leveraging South-South Cooperation to improve programming for results, the Country Office strengthened the capacity of its Implementing Partners in Results Based Management, focusing on programme planning, monitoring, and reporting for results, with the technical support of UNFPA Ghana. In the interchange of South-South Cooperation, UNFPA Liberia transferred a consignment of essential maternal health emergency medicines, including Oxytocin, to UNFPA Mauritania to address an impending shortage in the country.

## Distribution of Resources Mobilized

UNFPA recognizes and appreciates the contributions of all donors without whose resources the results achieved during the year would not have been possible.





# Moving forward

UNFPA remains committed to marching forward for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) through the three transformative goals of zero preventable maternal death, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices in Liberia.

We are confident that with the availability of quality sexual and reproductive health services, including capacity building and protection of the health workforce, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other essential reproductive health commodities, our efforts and those of partners to deliver a Liberia where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled can be assured.

The availability of quality data is critical to development planning. UNFPA will strengthen its partnership and support for the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) to ensure the analysis, publication, and dissemination of the thematic reports from the 2022 Liberia National Population and Housing Census.

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



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