

ENSURING RIGHTS
AND CHOICES FOR ALL
IN LIBERIA:
**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
(2021)**





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 Mid-
wifery

Phebe Hospital

Donors

Government of Sweden
Government of Ireland
Government of Liberia
Friends of UNFPA
The European Union
Johnson & Johnson
UN Peacebuilding Fund
Maternal Health Trust Fund
UNFPA Supplies



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 FOREWORD

06 COUNTRY PROFILE

07 UNFPA IN LIBERIA

09 ENDING MATERNAL DEATHS

13 ENDING UNMET NEED FOR
FAMILY PLANNING

20 ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

26 EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS
AND YOUTH

31 DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT AND
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

33 ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIPS

35 RESOURCES MOBILIZED

36 MOVING FORWARD

FOREWORD

FOREWORD

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, continues to lead efforts to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, and help adolescents, youth and women realize their reproductive rights. Aligned with the Government of Liberia's own priorities, we are committed to ending preventable maternal mortality, ending unmet need for Family Planning and ending gender-based violence, and harmful practices including female genital mutilation (FGM) in Liberia.

Though the global coronavirus pandemic and its associated health and economic consequences persisted in 2021, our efforts continued to be aimed at strengthening services and safeguarding women and girls' rights, safety, and dignity.

We know that the work on population and development remains central to ending poverty. Liberia's participation in the 2020 Round of Censuses was kept alive by implementing various interventions, including the cartographic and field mapping and a Census pre-test. Although some challenges led to the postponement of the enumeration phase in 2021, UNFPA and its partners are hopeful of finalizing the process before the end of 2022.

In 2021, along with our partners, 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 and female genital mutilation, remained on course. Key highlights of the achievements include:



- More than 400,000 individuals received sexual and reproductive health information and services, including family planning; 50 percent were adolescents and youth.
- 2,032 SGBV survivors were provided with medical, psychosocial, and protection services.
- 1.4 million United States Dollars' worth of reproductive health commodities and contraceptives procured and distributed through the national reproductive health commodities mechanism. The impact of the availability of these reproductive health commodities is reflected as follows:
 - An estimated 60,630 Unintended pregnancies averted
 - An estimated 257 maternal deaths averted
 - An estimated 965 child deaths averted.

None of the progress and results highlighted in this report would have been possible without the support and collaboration of key partners, including the Government of Liberia, civil society organizations, implementing partners, sister UN agencies, and most importantly, our donors.

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

Ms. Bidisha Pillai
Country Representative
UNFPA Liberia





**We know that the
work on population
and development
remains central to
ending poverty.**



COUNTRY PROFILE



**5.3 MILLIONS
POPULATION**

**75 PERCENT
UNDER AGE 35**



**4.3 TOTAL
FERTILITY RATE**
AVERAGE NUMBER 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. The majority 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 in accessing economic and social amenities, including quality sexual and reproductive health information and services. Adolescent girls, in particular, experience deprivation due to harmful traditional practices and gender norms, that perpetuate teenage pregnancy and high levels of gender-based

Vulnerable young females tend to trade sex for favors or money, thereby increasing their risk of HIV infection, unwanted pregnancy, sexual and gender-based violence, and trafficking.

Though the country has continued to make significant strides to overcome challenges in the health care delivery system following 14 years of civil war and a regional Ebola Virus Disease outbreak that further crippled its health infrastructure in 2014, the global COVID-19 health crisis has limited this progress. The need for strategic interventions with a multiplier effect on health system strengthening to reduce the national disease burden, of which 60 percent constitute maternal child health remains critical.

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 and exclusion of women in decision-making, providing an enabling environment for high levels of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Violence in the form of sexualized violence, daily domestic violence, sexual violence against minors, child marriage, sexual abuse, and traditional rites like female genital circumcision and forced child marriages are rife.

UNFPA IN LIBERIA

What we do

In furtherance of the Government of Liberia's PAPD and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Liberia, UNFPA works to ensure:

- Women, adolescents, and youth especially those marginalized and furthest behind, have improved access to quality gender-responsive, comprehensive, and integrated SRH information and services, including family planning and STIs/HIV;
- Adolescents and youth, including the marginalized, those with disabilities, and the 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.



WHERE WE WORK



 UNFPA COUNTRY OFFICE

 UNFPA PROGRAMME AREAS

 UNFPA FIELD OFFICE

ENDING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS



742 / 100,000
MATERNAL MORTALITY
RATIO



3 OUT OF 10
GIRLS AGED OF 15-19
ARE ALREADY MOTHERS



84 PERCENT
SKILLED BIRTH
ATTENDANCE



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

Women of reproductive age constitute 24 percent of Liberia's population. But for many women and their families, the joy of motherhood and the welcoming of a newborn can sometimes leave a bitter and an unforgettable experience as the death of women in childbirth remains one of the highest in the sub-region, with 742 women dying per 100,000 live births.

With this rather grim scenario, the implementation of maternal health interventions focused on improving access to skilled birth personnel and sexual and reproductive information and services.





KEY INTERVENTIONS

- 357 skilled birth personnel were mentored onsite by senior midwives in midwifery competencies at various health centers.
- 1345 practicing midwives were trained in the various midwifery competencies.
- 153 students from two midwifery training schools benefited from direct financial support
- Established adolescent-friendly corners within existing simulation centers of three midwifery schools to enhance the capacity of midwifery tutors, preceptors, and clinical instructors and ensure students have hands-on exposure to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health
- Supported the Liberia Midwives Association in finalizing its five-year midwifery strategic plan.
- Supported the Ministry of Health in conducting bi-weekly maternal and newborn death surveillance (MNDSR).
- Supported the in-service training of 35 skilled providers in emergency obstetrics and newborn care (EmONC) delivery in two counties.
- Provided 246 pre-service students with financial and technical support to complete their midwifery and Nurse Anesthesia training programs.
- 70 health providers trained in Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) in four counties hosting Ivoirian refugees.
- 2,000 sets of dignity kits procured and distributed to vulnerable women and girls in four counties.

- 35 students enrolled in the Nurse Anesthesia training program at the Phebe Hospital Training Program in Gbarnga, Bong County.

KEY RESULTS



- 40 fistula survivors had successful surgery.
- 1,235 middle-level care providers improved competencies in maternal and newborn healthcare delivery with the support of UNFPA.
- 120 students graduated from two post-basic midwifery training schools supported by UNFPA.
- 40,000 refugees and women and girls from host communities received sexual and reproductive health including sexual and gender-based violence information and services in four counties hosting Ivoirian refugees.



SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

IN COLLABORATION WITH
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

NIMBA COUNTY
INTERNAL WAITING ROOM

Spotlight Initiative
FINANCED BY UNFPA THROUGH PLANNING AND
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT





STORY

Maternal waiting home offers pregnant women comfort in rural Liberia

"I am happy that pregnant women from distance communities around Bahn can now breathe some relief as they have the opportunity to come and wait at the Bahn Health Center when they are close to giving birth," says Victoria.

Little did Victoria, age 29, know that she would be asked to remain at the health facility after her last antenatal visit on September 6 as she had come from afar. "The midwife informed me that my pregnancy was a high risk since I delivered my last two babies through operation [C-section]. But thankfully, I delivered my baby safely on September 8. I can imagine how difficult it would have been for me if I never had the opportunity to remain close to the clinic ahead of my time to deliver," she said. She is among the first group of pregnant women to access the Bahn Health Center Maternity Waiting Home, Bahn, Nimba County, handed to the Ministry of Health on September 10 by UNFPA in collaboration with Plan International Liberia.

UNFPA, with the support of the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative, is assisting the Ministry of Health with the building of maternity waiting homes at health facilities. The Spotlight Initiative is an EU – UN global partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, launched on June 18, 2019 by the Government of Liberia, the European Union, Civil Society Organizations, and the United Nations in Liberia. A maternity waiting home is a residential facility located near a qualified medical facility, health care center, or hospital where women classified as high risk can await their delivery and be transferred to the nearest medical facility where they can have their baby and receive lifesaving care in the event of a birth complication.

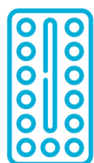
Though 8 in 10 deliveries in Liberia occur at health facilities and 84 percent of deliveries are assisted by skilled providers, the country still ranks among countries with high maternal deaths. According to the Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2019-20, the current maternal mortality ratio is 742 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 if it must meet the Sustainable Development Goal of bringing its maternal mortality ratio down to 70 deaths per 100,000 live births.

UNFPA believes the best way to reduce maternal death is to ensure that women have access to contraception to avoid unintended pregnancies; pregnant women have skilled and respectful care in a safe environment during delivery and those with complications have timely access to quality emergency obstetric care. But the latter is critically undermined by the delay of pregnant women in reaching health facilities, especially in remote communities.

ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING



25 PERCENT
CONTRACEPTIVE
PREVALENCE RATE
(ALL METHODS)



24 PERCENT
CONTRACEPTIVE
PREVALENCE RATE
(MODERN METHODS)



33 PERCENT
UNMET NEED FOR
CONTRACEPTION

Family planning is central to gender equality and women's empowerment, and it is a critical factor in reducing poverty.

UNFPA continued to support the Ministry of Health to ensure the availability of family planning services, for all women and girls.

UNFPA procured and distributed \$1.2 million worth of reproductive health commodities and contraceptives through the National Medicines distribution mechanism.

With contraceptive preference skewed towards injectable methods, UNFPA's introduction of DMPA-SC has continued to gain momentum, particularly at the community level.



KEY INTERVENTIONS

- 515,603 reproductive health commodities procured and distributed nationwide.
- Community-based distribution of family planning commodities strengthened, reaching 105,362 women and girls with family planning services.
- 314 Community Health Assistants trained in DMPA-SC/SayanaPress administration





KEY RESULTS



- 419,983 people reached with family planning information and services.
- 60,630 unintended pregnancies averted
- 25,111 abortions averted
- 257 maternal deaths averted
- 13,854 Maternal Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) averted
- 95,477 Total Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) averted
- 149,374 Total Couple Year Protection (CYP) were generated through UNFPA's procurement of 49% of family planning commodity needs for the public sector.

“I was 15 years when I got pregnant and dropped out of school. But thank God for the family planning services I have been receiving at the Youth Friendly Center after giving birth, I was able to return to school,” says Jamether.

Jamether, now age 22, is a resident of Toe Town, Grand Gedeh County. In 2017, she got pregnant while she was still in grade 9.

“At the time, I knew nothing about how to have protected sex and avoid getting pregnant. I remember that one day in late 2016, I was in the company of a friend who was already sexually active. She told me that nothing would happen if I tried it. She had been doing it [having sex] since she was 14. I thought about trying it too. But I became pregnant the first day I had sex,” says Jamether.

Jamether had to drop out of school. But she credited her father for the courage to return to school after giving birth. “My father never gave up on me. In May 2017, three months after I delivered the baby, my father took me to the Toe Town Youth Friendly Center and requested the service provider put me on family planning.

I went back to school the same year. Today, I have prevented pregnancies, which has helped me graduate from high school,” she said.

Unplanned pregnancy is robbing adolescent and teenage girls in Liberia of their future. The Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2019-20 estimates that 30 percent of girls aged 15-19 are pregnant or are already mothers. This level of unplanned pregnancies can be attributed to the low utilization of family planning services among adolescents, 18.6 percent compared to 46 percent for general Women of Reproductive Age.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is supporting Liberia to break the adolescent pregnancy cycle by providing age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents and young people to develop the knowledge and skills they need to protect their health throughout their lives. This support, funded by the Embassy of Sweden, the Embassy of Ireland, and other partners, also includes the availability of good quality reproductive health services in a youth-friendly and sensitive way for adolescents to make informed choices and be healthy.



ENDING GENDER-BASIS VIOLENCES AND HARMFUL PRACTICES



12.3 PERCENT
OF GIRLS ARE MARRIED
BEFORE AGE 18



38 PERCENT
OF WOMEN & GIRLS
18-49 SUBJECTED
TO FGM



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PREVALENCE AMONG
WOMEN & GIRLS**

AGE 15-19: **53.8 PERCENT**
AGE 20-24: **66.8 PERCENT**



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

Nearly two decades after the end of the Liberian civil conflict, Gender-based violence still permeates Liberian society. Harmful cultural practices are deeply entrenched and undermine efforts at achieving gender equality. Prevalent harmful practices include female genital mutilation and early marriage.

UNFPA supports the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in providing 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, 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.





KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Supported the development and enforcement of policies including the SRHR/SGBV Integrated Essential Package (IESP) to drive adequate GBV service provision.
- Supported the provision of quality services at 12 one-stop centers, 5 safe homes, 2 integrated health facilities, peace huts, and social coping spaces. The services include: clinical management of rape, psychosocial counseling and referral prevention of unplanned pregnancies, prevention of STIs and HIV/AIDS, protection of survivors, supply of dignity kits, and access to justice support, respectively.
- Strengthened systems for GBV data collection by improving the coordination and reporting of various response service centers.
- 131 (Male: 117 and Female: 14) inmates and pre-trial detainees at the Sanniquellie Central Prison, Sanniquellie, Nimba County, trained in diverse skills including tailoring, bead-making, arts and craft, soap making, etc.

- 75 service providers trained in quality service delivery at the Safe Homes, One-Stop Centers, Peace Huts, and law enforcement officers' professional handling of SGBV cases
- Developed the Integrated Essential Service Package for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for roll-out in Liberia's health care system.

KEY RESULTS



- 2032 SGBV survivors accessed integrated gender-based violence services, including medical and psychosocial support at the 12 One-Stop Centers.
- 130 survivors received urgent protection and psychosocial counseling services at the various Safe Homes throughout the country.



**STORY*****UNFPA provides SGBV and RH services for Ivorian refugees and host communities***

With every mass displacement of the population especially as a result of conflict comes the costs of conflict paid largely by women and girls—sexual violence.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), about 35,000 Ivorian refugees resided in Liberia in 2021 as a result of protracted conflict in their home country. About 27,000 of them arrived between October 2020 and February 2021 while the remainder represents those who arrived between 2002 and 2011.

In response, UNFPA moved in to ensure the availability of dignity kits for the fleeing population, mainly pregnant women and girls, skilled health providers, and reproductive health kits at facilities in the region hosting the refugees to meet their and host communities' reproductive health needs.

The UNFPA's intervention also included the training and deployment of health care providers to provide clinical and psychosocial support to survivors of gender-based violence.

Moreover, some of the refugees also benefited from 83 low-cost durable housing units constructed for them and the host community at the Bahn Refugee Settlement by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, (UNHCR), and UNFPA. The UNFPA's segment of the housing units was funded by the EU-supported Spotlight Initiative.



EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH



32 PERCENT
POPULATION
AGED 10-24



79 PERCENT
NET ENROLLEMENT RATE
PRIMARY EDUCATION



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



16.7 PERCENT
CONTRACEPTIVE
PREVALENCE RATE
AMONG ADOLESCENT
AGED 15-19



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

Adolescents and young people account for about 79 percent of Liberia's population. Yet too 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.

UNFPA works with the Government and partners to address these issues by focusing on the protection and fulfillment of adolescents and young people's rights, especially girls. This includes supporting comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health care to help girls avoid pregnancy.





KEY INTERVENTIONS

- 211,751 adolescents and youth received an integrated package of youth-friendly sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services from the 36 UNFPA-supported health facilities and 16 outreach sites in five Counties located in South Eastern Liberia (Sinoe, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Kru).
- 966 (813 males and 153 females) teachers from 331 schools trained in delivering comprehensive sexuality education teaching materials
- 22,820 young people benefited from sexuality education delivered in a school setting.
- 12 women-led community-based organizations (CBOs) trained and empowered to provide mentorship and sexuality education to out-of-school adolescents.
- 121 adolescent girls from low-income households trained in economic livelihood skills training cycle.

KEY RESULTS



- 42,190 Unintended pregnancies averted among adolescents and young people in five South-Eastern counties of Liberia (Sinoe, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Kru).
- 17,474 abortions averted among adolescents and young people in the five South-Eastern counties of Liberia.
- 46,908 Unsafe abortions averted among adolescents and young people in the five South-Eastern counties of Liberia.
- 352 maternal deaths averted among adolescents and young people in five South-Eastern counties of Liberia.
- 3,010 disadvantaged and at-risk youth I reached with sexual and reproductive health and rights and mental health services.
- 386 young drug addicts rehabilitated in Montserrado County.
- 97 former young drug addicts reintegrated into their communities.
- 590 disadvantaged youth graduated from a skills training program (with hair-dressing/cosmetology, barbing, pastry/catering, interior decoration, plumbing, tailoring, soap production, auto mechanic, electronics, refrigeration, welding, masonry, electricity, and carpentry and were provided with start-up kits (tools and materials).



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WE AS ADOLESCENT
EXTENSION
APPRECIATION



Menstruating in dignity is part of the fundamental rights of girls and women

For some women and girls in Liberia, menstruation may be an inconvenience they don't give much thought to. But for many others, this natural reproductive cycle function can equate to abuse (the onset of menstruation can signal that a girl is ready for marriage and childbearing, even if she is still a child herself); stigma, and missed opportunity (skipping school because of pain and/or lack of personal hygiene products).

According to three peer educators, the lack of information, limited access to sanitary pads, exclusion from public life, and even life-threatening neglect during menstruation are some of the limitations women and girls, particularly those from vulnerable homes, have to manage.

Speaking on June 09, 2021 in Monrovia at the launch of the First Lady of the Republic of Liberia's She's You Menstrual & Personal Hygiene Initiative, the young peer educators from Community Health Initiative, Fatu R. Farkollie, Orfina Foday and Rosetta Fardolo said: "adolescents and young girls are often compelled to use pieces of cloth during their periods as they cannot afford menstrual pads."

"It is not hygienic or convenient, but they have no choice. Without proper menstrual hygiene support, we women and girls are losing our dignity," one of them said.

"I am here to express my solidarity with women and girls, especially those living with disabilities, to lead and guide them in advancing their menstrual hygiene as they grow unto [becoming] productive ladies for tomorrow." Says H.E Clar Marie Weah, First Lady of the Republic of Liberia, as she launches her She's You Menstrual & Personal Hygiene

Mrs. Weah, accompanied by her husband, Dr. George M. Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, said although menstruating in dignity is part of the fundamental rights of girls and women who constitute half of

Liberia's population, the ability to manage their menstruation is influenced by a broader gender inequality including discriminatory societal norms; especially for women and girls living with disabilities.

"In fact, in many corners of our Liberian society, speaking of menstruation is a taboo, a forbidden conversation which leads to the detriment of many young girls. Today we want to positively and constructively raise the bar, bringing this conversation out in the open to the cognizance and awareness of all of us," says the Liberian First Lady.

According to Mrs. Weah, her She's You Menstrual & Personal Hygiene Initiative will work to improve education and information about menstrual hygiene and safe practices and provide vulnerable women and girls with locally mad sanitary pads to help mitigate their suffering during menstruation.

Meanwhile, UNFPA has pledged to support the First Lady's Menstrual Hygiene Initiative.

In addition to providing women with menstrual supplies and safe sanitation facilities, UNFPA will also support the education and information needs of girls and boys about menstruation and related human rights concerns in Liberia," Dr. Bannet Ndyanabangi, UNFPA Liberia Representative, said.

UNFPA has supported the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education for the inclusion of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in all subjects covering primary and secondary schools' curricula.

The UN sexual and reproductive health agency is also supporting the delivery of gender-sensitive, age-appropriate, and life skills-based Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to both in and out of school adolescents throughout the country.

...GENE INITIATIVE

"SHE DESERVES DIGNITY, PERIOD"



Clar
FO



DATA FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The availability of quality socio-economic and demographic data in Liberia is seriously hampered by low economic and human capital.

In 2021, UNFPA stepped up its effort to support the strengthening of national capacities and the statistics system to produce and use disaggregated population data to inform policy decision-making, and development programming. The efforts towards Liberia's participation in the 2020 Round of Censuses remained relentless.

UNFPA provided technical and financial support to ensure the 2022 National Population and Housing Census are of high quality and follow international principles and standards.

As a result, UNFPA supported the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services to procure the required logistics, equipment, software, and human resources for the conduct of the GIS Field Mapping, which was completed with the identification of Enumeration Areas (EAs).

A Census Pre-Test was conducted to test the census questionnaire, procedures, concepts, tablets, tools, and materials.

Through South-south Cooperation, the Government of Ghana provided US\$2.6 million worth of tablets and power banks for use during enumeration in October 2022. The tablets and power banks will be returned upon completion of the exercise.



STORY

Government's Commitment and Donors' funding keep Liberia Census on track

Censuses remain the source of primary data on the size and spatial distribution of the population and its characteristics in most developing countries. Such data are critical for good governance, development planning, risk reduction and crisis response, social welfare programmes, and business market analyses. Yet, many developing countries still struggle to keep up with their respective census timetable or schedule which is often with a ten-year interval. Like in the case of Liberia, the last census was held in 2008 which entailed that the next one should have been in 2018. However, it was postponed as a result of Liberia's 2017 General and Presidential Elections.

Albeit, with the commitment of the Government and its partners led by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, the process was reignited with the signing of the Liberia Census 2021 Project Document in October 2020; and the launch of the Project by President George M. Weah on 25 September 2020.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions put some breaks on the implementation of the census calendar; thereby affecting the start of the cartographic fieldwork.

Nonetheless, some activities progressed including the acquisition of the latest technologies and scientific equipment, expertise, satellite imagery of Liberia, and the training of field mappers for the demarcation of the entire country into smaller counting areas.

On 01 April, Liberia's Vice President Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor officially flagged off the Field Mappers to begin mapping of the country into smaller enumeration areas for the actual count.

A Census Pre-Test was also conducted in December to test the census questionnaire, procedures, concepts, tablets, tools and materials.





ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

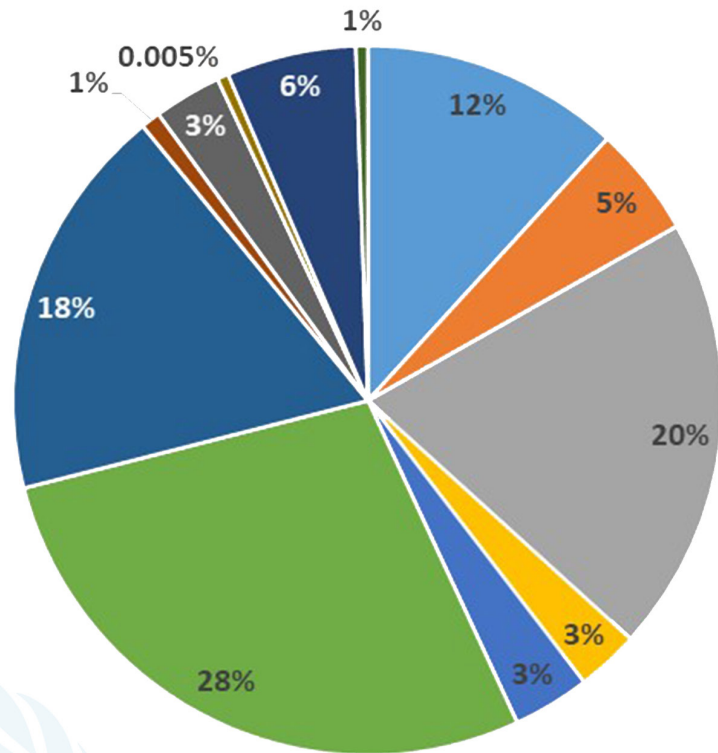
UNFPA continued to work with a broad base of partners from the UN, the government, and the civil society in the implementation of its 5th Country Programme. Some of these key partnerships include:

- 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 Data for Development 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

UNFPA also maintained its leadership role for the UN and donors' partnership of support to the Liberian Government for the conduct of the National Population and Housing Census. Acting in this capacity, UNFPA negotiated with Ghana on behalf of Liberia for the release of US\$2.6 million worth of tablets and power banks to be used during the enumeration phase of the Census.



DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES



- Irish Embassy
- COVID-19 Multi Partners Fund
- UNFPA HQ
- Maternal Health Trust Fund
- UNFPA Supplies
- Embassy of Sweden
- European Union (Spotlight Initiative)
- UN Peacebuilding Fund
- Johnson & Johnson
- UNAIDS/UBRAF
- Government of Liberia
- Friends of UNFPA



MOVING FORWARD

We remain unwavering on our forward march for universal access to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHRs) through the three transformative goals of zero preventable maternal death, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices.

Success is assured with the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and interventions, including protection of the health workforce, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other essential reproductive health commodities.

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 successful conduct of the Liberia National Population Housing Census in 2022.



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

*UNFPA,
United Nations Population Fund*

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