Factsheet: Liberia
Last update: 28 April 2014

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

According to the presentation "The Revised National Youth Policy (2012-2017)", the definition of youth is from ages 15 to 35, though it is recognized that this is culturally and socially constructed.

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

- **Youth Development Index**: 0.53 (111 out of 170 countries)
  - Year: 2013
  - Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**LITERACY RATES**

- **Literacy Rates**: 54.47%
  - Both sexes (15-24) %: 64.66%
  - Male (15-24) %: 43.97%
  - Female (15-24) %: 54.47%
  - Year: 2015
  - Source: UNESCO

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

- **Secondary School**: xx
  - Both sexes %: xx
  - Male %: xx
  - Female %: xx
  - Year: No data
  - Source: UNESCO

**PREVALENCE OF HIV**

- **Prevalence of HIV**: 0.2%
  - Male (15-24) %: 0.4%
  - Female (15-24) %: 0.2%
  - Year: 2013
  - Source: World Bank

**TOBACCO USE**

- **Tobacco Use**: 13.60%
  - Both sexes (13-15) %: 14.20%
  - Male (13-15) %: 11.80%
  - Female (13-15) %: xx
  - Year: 2010
  - Source: WHO

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

As reported by The New Republic Liberia, Liberia's revised youth policy (2012-2017) was initially rejected as it was labeled "Liberia Youth Policy". The House argued that it can only pass acts, not policies. The policy was renamed the "Liberia Youth Act" and passed by the House on 5 September 2013. It has since been sent to the Senate. Key areas of intervention include employment, education, sexual and reproductive health, justice and governance, and youth in peace-building processes. A 2009 USAID youth fragility assessment described the National Youth Policy Action Plan (NYPAP), which was the principle policy document from 2009-2012. Its objectives include: developing effective coordination for youth development and developing youth as not only...

**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

**Is there a national youth policy?**

**YES**

Liberia revised its national youth policy and action plan, the policy was passed by the House's Plenary as the "Liberia Youth Act". A fragility assessment was conducted.

**GDP PER CAPITA**

- **USD 454.34**: Year: 2013
  - Source: World Bank

**HDI**

- **0.388**: Year: 2013
  - Source: UNDP

**GINI**

- **38.16**: Year: 2007
  - Source: World Bank

**CORRUPTION PERCEPTION**

- **37**: 94 out of 177 countries
  - Year: 2012
  - Source: Transparency International

**PRESS FREEDOM**

- **30.65**: 89 out of 180 countries
  - Year: 2013
  - Source: Reporters Without Borders

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

- **What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?**
Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

Yes

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

Yes

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

Unclear

The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) was established in 1982. In his confirmation hearing in March 2013, Minister Eugene Lenn Nagbe identified youth training, employment and empowerment as the priorities for the ministry. As described by the 2009 USAID youth fragility assessment, the MOYS is advised by a National Youth Policy Implementation Committee, which provides input from a range of stakeholders. The report argues that MOYS severely lacks capacity, with only 25 professional staff to address the needs of approximately 1 million young people.

The Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) describes itself as a “broad-based, democratic, pluralistic, non-governmental and nonpartisan youth organisation”. Initially named “Urban Youth Council", the umbrella organisation was enacted into law as FLY in 1978. During the civil conflict, FLY was inactive until it re-organised in 2002. In June 2013, FLY helped to conduct a nation-wide consultation to revise the youth policy. In the 2013/14 national budget, FLY will be transferred USD 150,000 from the Government of Liberia.

In the FY2013/14 Draft National Budget, the Ministry of Youth and Sports was allocated a total of USD 15.6 million (LRD 1.3 billion). The amounts listed in the budget are in USD. It is unclear what proportion of this amount is specifically for youth. According to the World Bank, Liberia spent 1.93% of its GDP on education in 2012, but does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

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YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

BUDGET & SPENDING

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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