

# 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.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **25**  
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**Upper House** **30**  
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	21	16	XX
Female	18	16	XX

Homosexual acts illegal. Source: UNSD, ILGA

### VOTING AGE

**18**  
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

### MAJORITY AGE

**18**  
Source: International Development Law Organization

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**16**  
Minimum Age  
Source: Penal Law of Liberia (1976)

### GDP PER CAPITA

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

### HDI

**0.388**  
Year: 2013  
Source: UNDP  
175 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

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

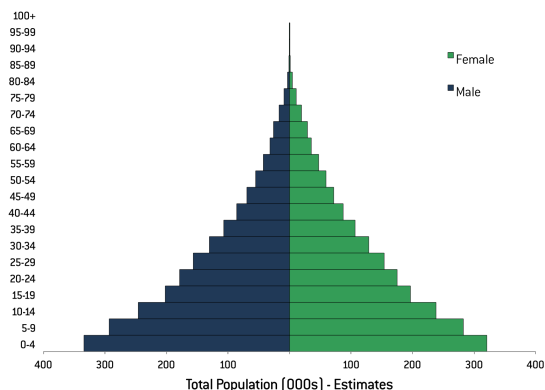
### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**37**  
94 out of 177 countries.  
Year: 2014  
Source: Transparency International

### PRESS FREEDOM

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

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



Source: United Nations Population Division - Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects The 2012 Revision (Estimates); <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/population.htm> [accessed July 2013]

Source: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.53**  
111 out of 170 countries.  
Year: 2013  
Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

### LITERACY RATES

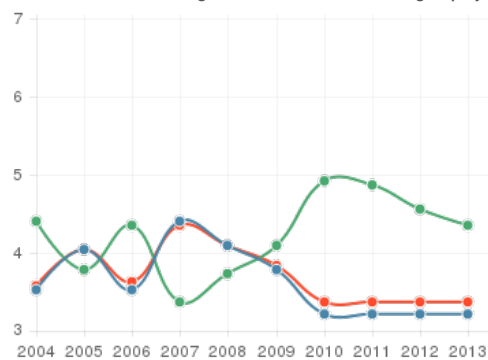
**54.47%**  
Both sexes (15-24) %  
**64.66%** **43.97%**  
Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %  
Year: 2015  
Source: UNESCO

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School  
Both sexes %  
Male % Female %  
Year: No data.  
Source: UNESCO

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

### Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

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

### TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.  
**13.60%**  
Both sexes (13-15) %  
**14.20%** **11.80%**  
Male (13-15) % Female (13-15) %  
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

### 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.

male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: World Bank

## 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?

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

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.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

**YES**

#### YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [Federation of Liberian Youth \(FLY\)](#) describes itself as a "broad-based, democratic, pluralistic, nongovernmental 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.

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

**YES**

#### BUDGET & SPENDING

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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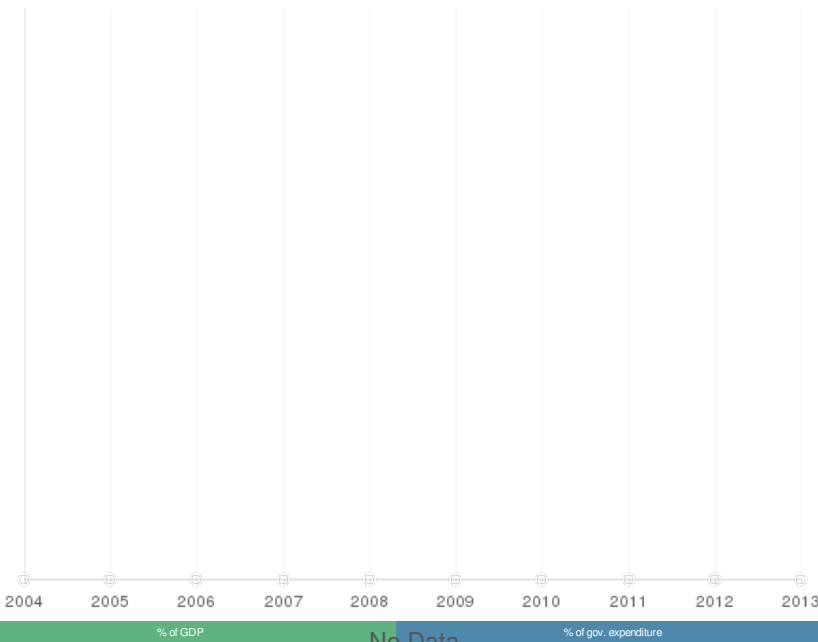
**UNCLEAR**

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

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Source: [World Bank](#)

No Data

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)

#### PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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