

# Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)



## Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016

August 2017



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



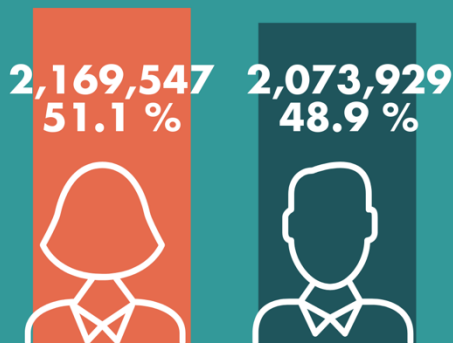
## 2. Demographic Characteristics

### Total Population



**4,243,475**

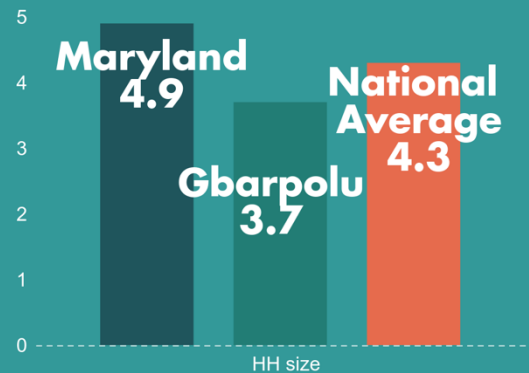
Liberia's population is estimated to be just over 4.2 million people, of which 51.1% are female and 48.9% are male.



### Household Size

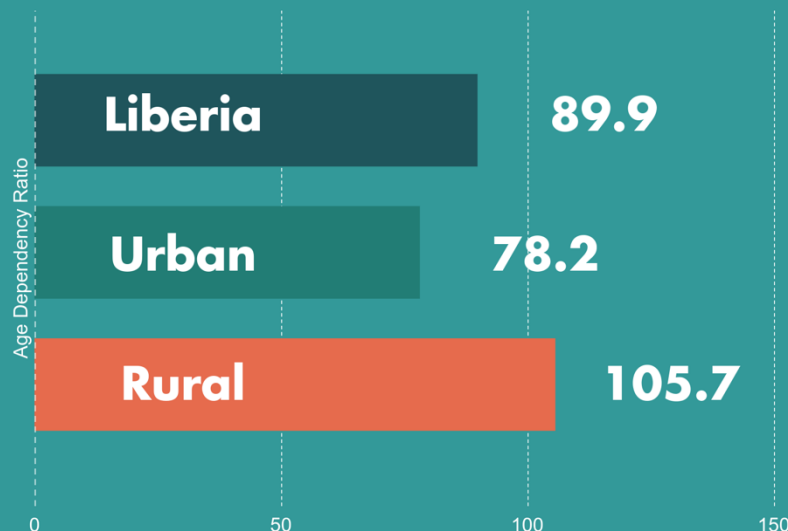
The average household size is estimated to be 4.3 people per household.

Maryland has the highest average household size, while Gbarpolu holds the lowest.



### Age Dependency Ratio

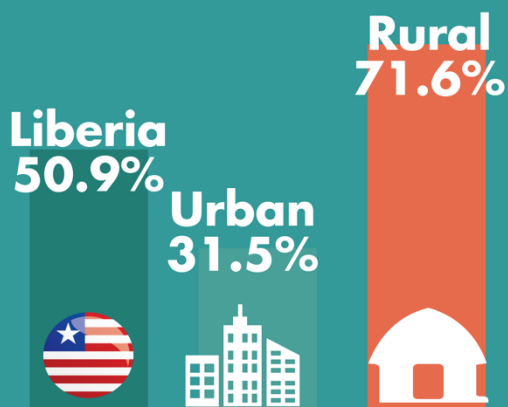
44.5% of Liberia's population is under the age of 15 years, which makes the age dependency ratio as high as 89.9% nationally. This figure is even higher in rural areas, where the ratio of working age population is lower than the 'dependent' population causing a dependency ratio over 100%.



# 3. Poverty

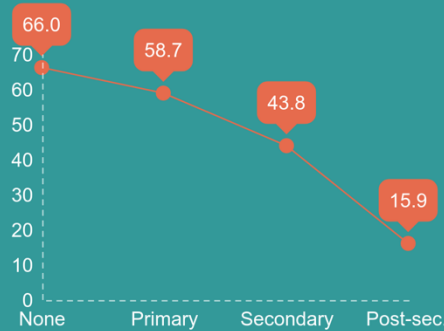
## Poverty Headcount

The national poverty headcount for Liberia is 50.9%, which means that approximately half of Liberia's population is poor. Poverty is higher in rural areas compared to urban areas.



## Poverty levels by Education attainment

The highest levels of poverty are found in households in which the head has no formal education, 66 %, compared to 58.7% for heads with at least some primary education, 43.8% for heads with at least some secondary education, and 15.9% for heads with post-secondary education.



## Types of Poverty

### Absolute Poverty



**Liberia**  
**50.9%**

### Food Poverty

**39.1%**

### Extreme Poverty

**16.5%**



**Female**  
**Headed**  
**Households**  
**46.3%**

**34.2%**

**15.4%**



**Male**  
**Headed**  
**Households**  
**52.3%**

**40.7%**

**16.8%**

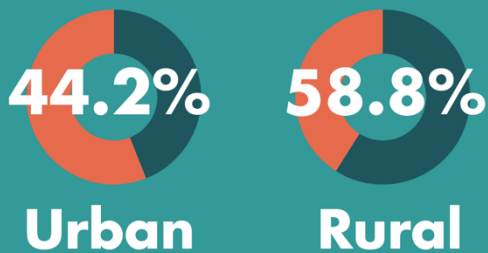
# 4. Food Security

## Food Insecurity

The 2016 HIES gathered data from Liberian households on the availability of food over the previous 12 months.

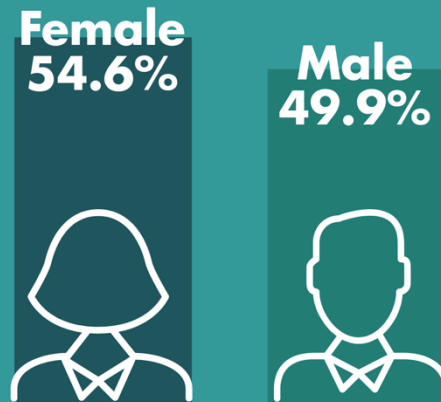


Nationally, 51.2% of Liberian HHs reported food shortages. Urban areas are less affected (44%) than rural ones (59%).

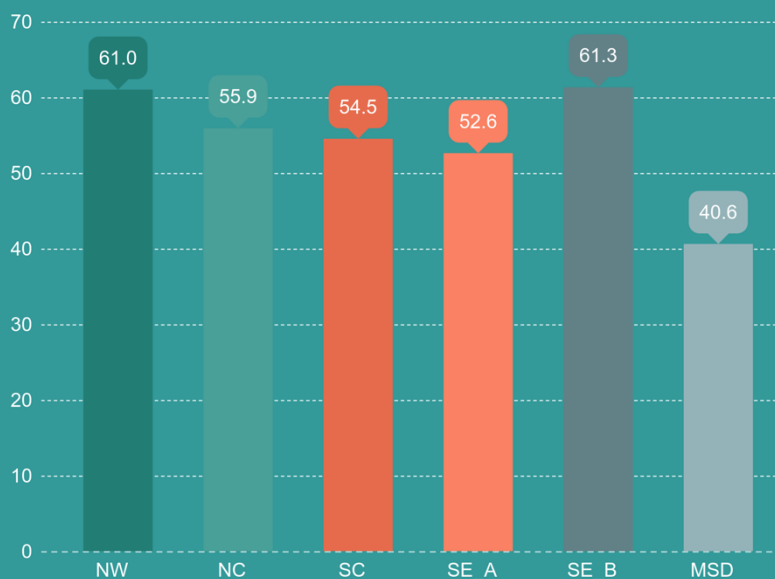


## Food Insecurity by Gender of Household Head

Disaggregation by gender shows that female headed households face food shortage more commonly than male headed ones (54.6% vs. 49.9%).



## Regional Imbalances in Food Shortages



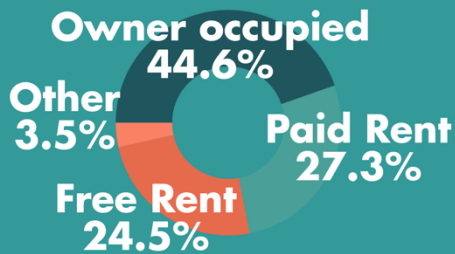
There are clear regional differences in the share of households that report having faced a food shortage.

Montserrado reports the lowest share: 40.6% of homes in the capital county had to deal with a food shortage.

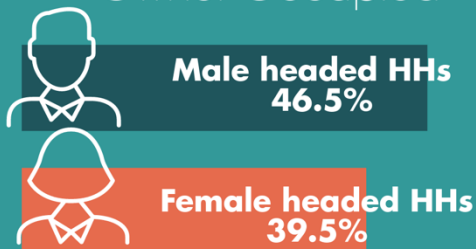
The South Eastern B (SE\_B) and the North Western (NW) regions were hit hardest in the country. Here 3 in 5 households did not have enough food for a whole day at least once in the past 12 months (61.4% and 61.1% respectively).

# 5. Housing Characteristics

## Ownership Status

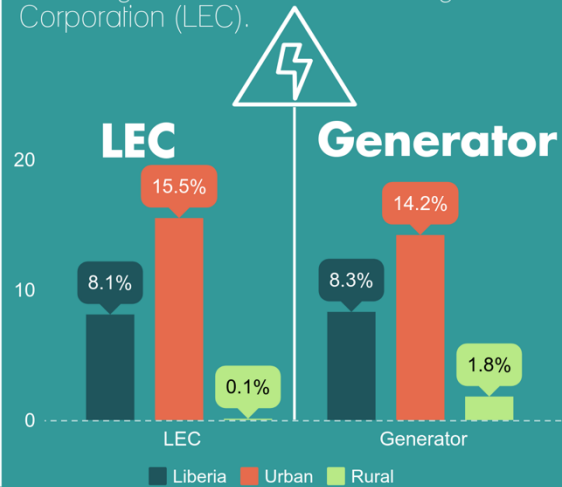


## Owner Occupied



## Electricity by Area

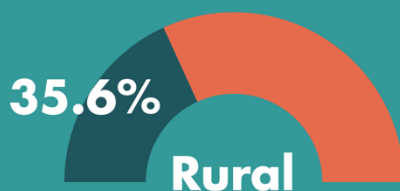
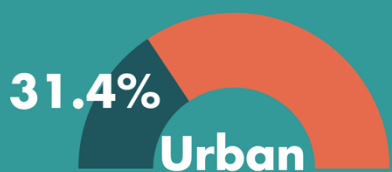
8.1% of households in Liberia receive electricity from the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).



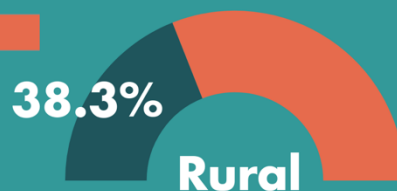
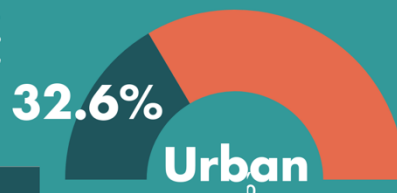
## Relying on wells

Mechanical wells or boreholes are the single most important source of water for Liberian households. Both in rural and in urban areas, both during the rainy season and during the dry months, reliably about a third of homes report that their water comes from a well.

### Dry Season



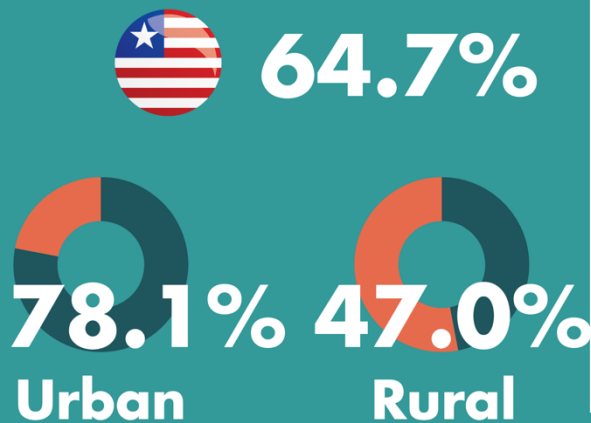
### Rainy Season



# 6. Education

## Literacy by strata

Literacy is the ability to read and write - in English or in any other language for Liberians aged 15 to 49. The HIES reports literacy rates based on the respondent's self-evaluation of their ability to read and write in any language.



## Ebola effect on education

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) affected the education system as schools were closed and students could not attend exams due to the restriction of movement.

Nationwide, 8% of students across all grades had to repeat a year because of the disease. 6% of students who wanted to take the WAEC 9 or 12 exams were not able to do so.

### Repeated



### Missed WAEC 9



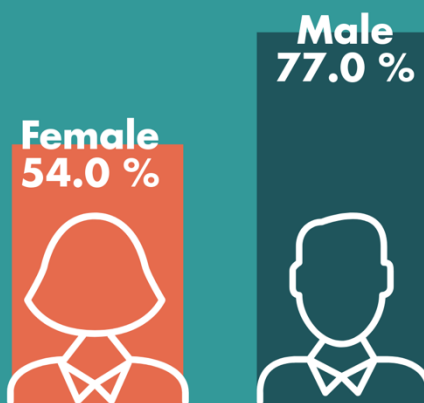
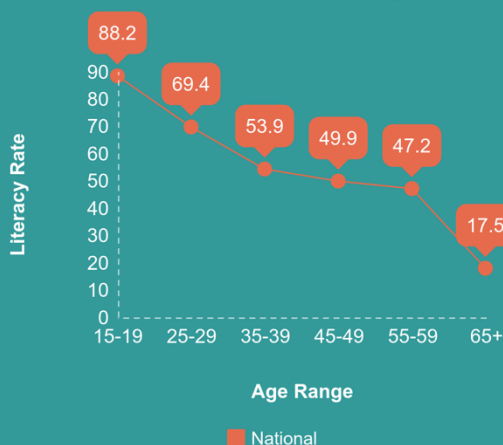
### Missed WAEC 12



## Literacy Rates according to Age and Gender

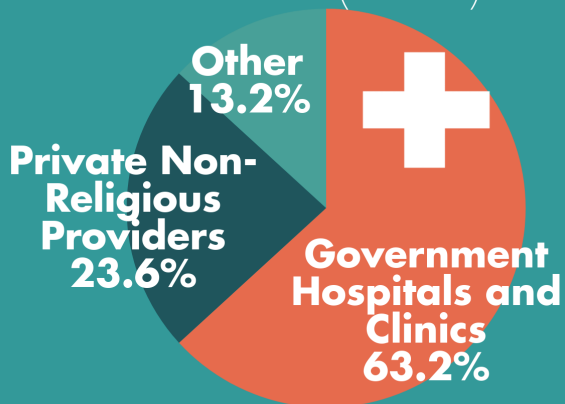
There is a clear trend among the population. Younger Liberians are much more likely to be literate. For example, while only about half of those aged between 35 and 39 are literate (53.9%), nearly 9 out of 10 Liberians between 15 and 19 years of age (88.2%) can read and write.

### Literacy Rate by Age



# 7. Health

## Type of Primary Health Care Provider (PHCP)



'Others' include religious hospitals and clinics (2.7%), private doctors/dentists (1.3%), drug dispensaries (7.5%) and TTM/NGOs (1.1%).

## Accessibility of PHCP

### Time

81.6 % reach in less than 60 mins

18.4 % reach in more than 60 mins



### Transport

Motorcycle 23.1%

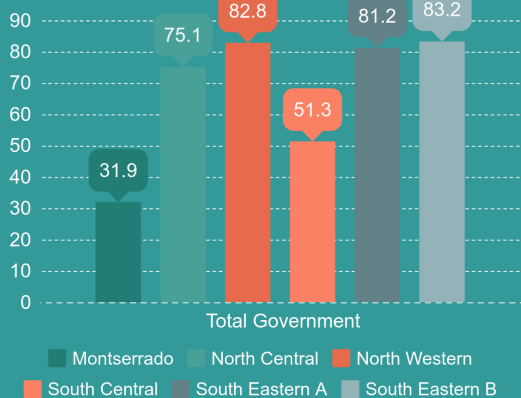
On Foot 59.4%



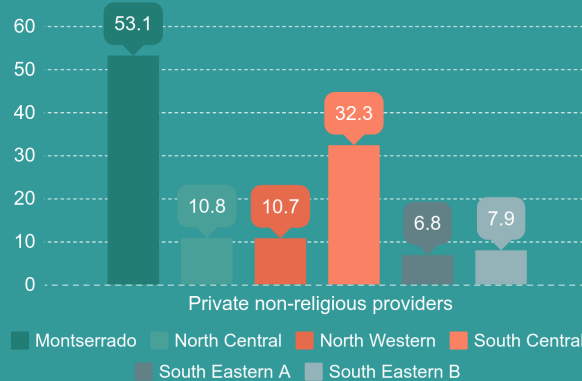
## Type of Primary Health Care Provider by Region

The graphs below show the percent distribution of visits across regions to the two different types of PHCP (Government hospitals and clinics or Private non-religious providers).

### Government Hospitals and Clinics



### Private Non-Religious Providers



# 8. Employment

## Distribution of Employers

Wage earners are most often hired by employers from the private sector (restaurants, banks, shops, ...) (64.9%).

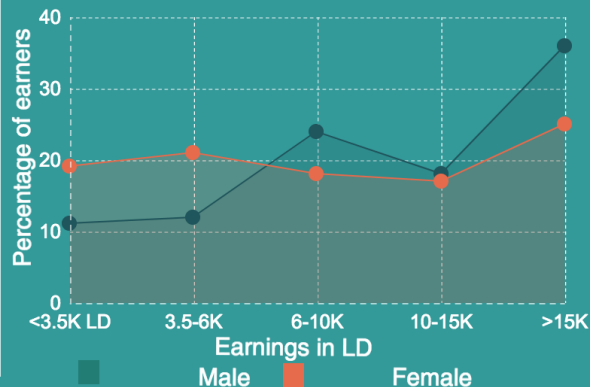
The second most common employer is the government, with 19.5% of wage earners on its payroll. The remaining 15.6% is working for other employers (NGOs, churches, political parties, ...)



## Uneven Wage Earnings

Among wage employed Liberians, females earn less than their male counterparts.

A higher share of women are in low earning categories as compared to males. As wage incomes rise (along the X-axis, monthly wage in LD), the relative share of women in that category vis-à-vis men falls.

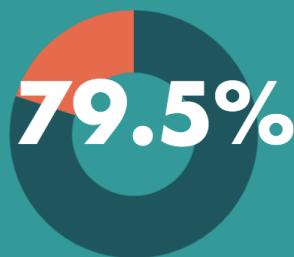


## Working under Precarious Conditions

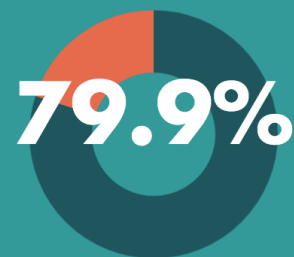
### Unemployment



### Vulnerable Employment



### Informal Employment



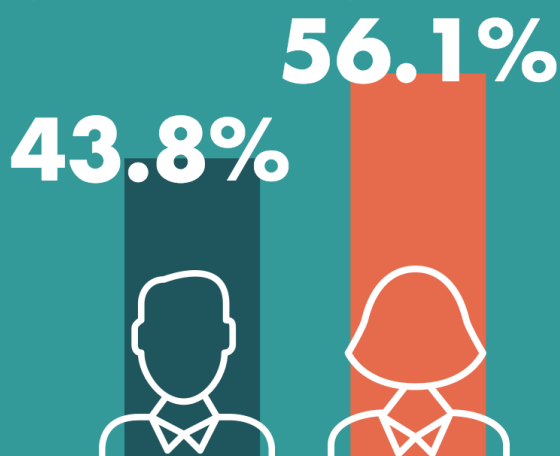
Unemployment is low in Liberia - the unemployment rate is estimated to be only 3.9%. However, this masks the fact that work is precarious. 4 out of 5 workers in Liberia are estimated to be in vulnerable employment. The same proportion of workers is engaged in informal employment. Both informal and vulnerable employment are most often characterised by inadequate earnings, low productivity and difficult conditions of work that undermine workers' rights.



# 9. HH Non-Farm Enterprises

## Female Entrepreneurs

The majority of household non-farm enterprises are managed by women. 56.1 % of businesses are run by females while 43.8% are run by men.

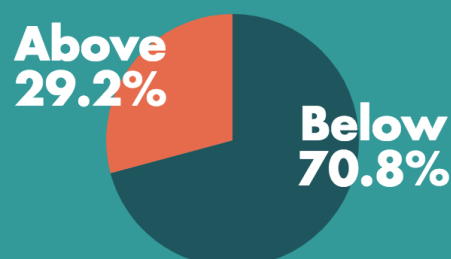


## Monthly Turnover

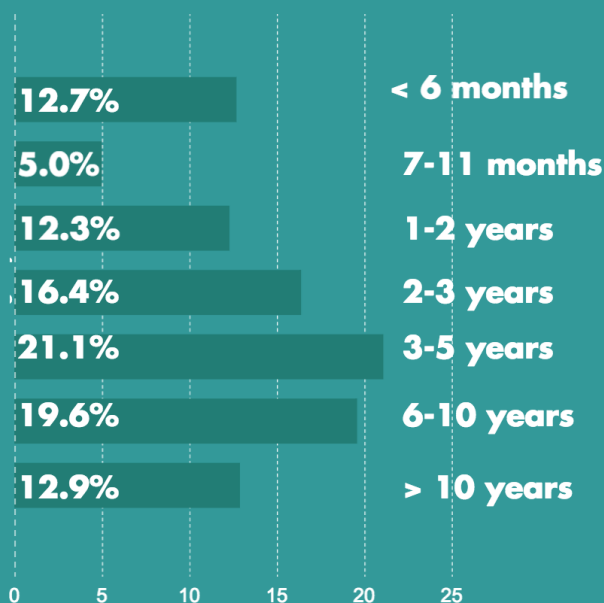
Revenues, that is the turnover generated without netting out costs, is generally low for household non-farm enterprises.

70.8% of enterprises generate less than 30,000 LD per month, while 29.2% achieve a higher monthly turnover.

### Turnover above or below 30,000 LD



## Business Longevity

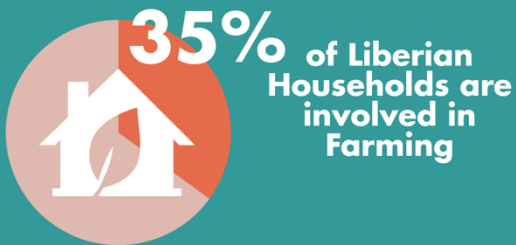


The majority of non-farm household enterprises have been in operation for between 2 and 10 years (57.1%).

On the tails of the distribution, just over 1 in 6 businesses have been in operation for less than a year (17.7%), while 12.9% have been running for more than a decade.

# 10. Agriculture

## Farming Households

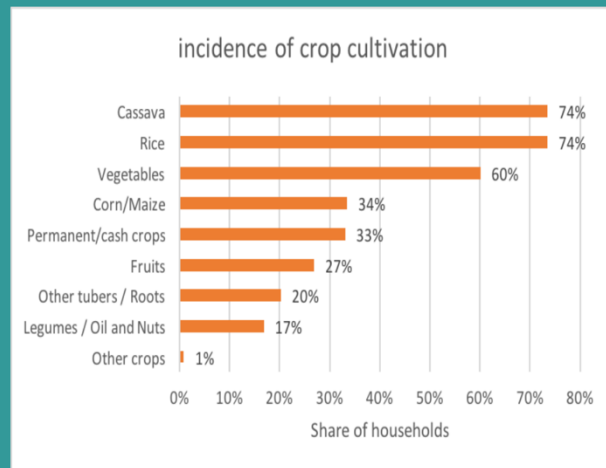


Each farming household has on average:

**2 Farms**  
**3.95 Acres**

## Crop Cultivation

Cassava and rice are the main crops grown by Farming households

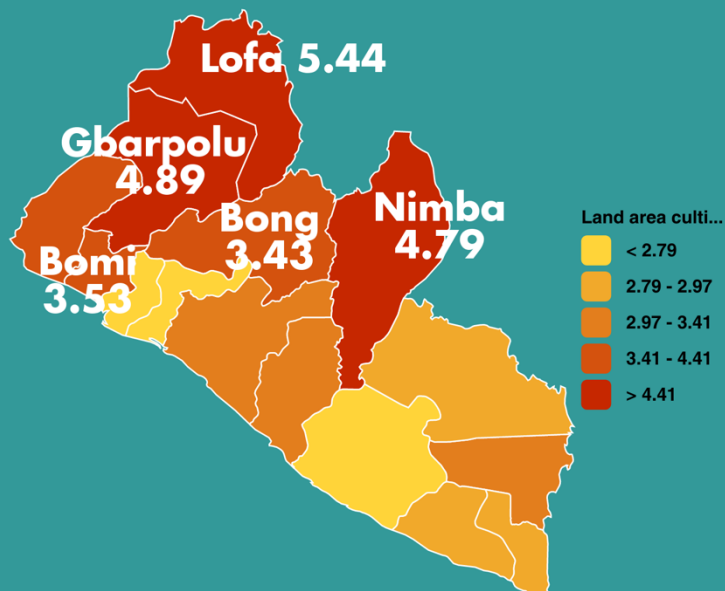


## Distribution of average land cultivated (acres)

There is also significant difference across counties in term of land area cultivated by household.

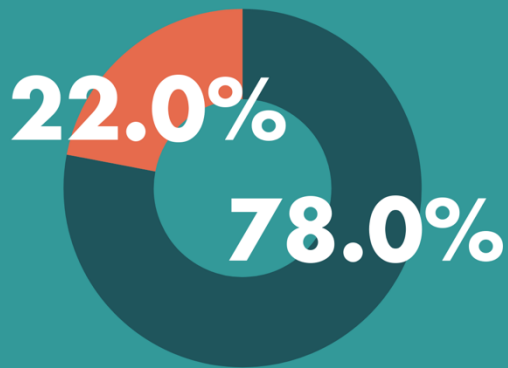
Households in Lofa County appear to have the highest land area cultivated per household (5.44 acres). Followed by Gbarpolu (4.89 acres) and Nimba (4.79 acres).

Montserrado on the other hand holds the lowest average land cultivated (1.80 acres).



# 11. Transfers

## National vs. International Transfers



78% of all transfers that Liberian households receive come from senders within the country. Only 22% come from abroad. Of that 22% nearly all comes from the USA.

## Number of transfers over the last 12 months

On average, rural households receive less transfers than urban ones. It is estimated that urban households receive 2.2 transfers (cash, food, or non-food items) while rural homes get only 1.9.



1.9



2.2

## Distribution of money delivery method



Bank - 1.2%



Mobile Money - 17.3%



Western Union  
13.6%



Moneygram  
10.9%



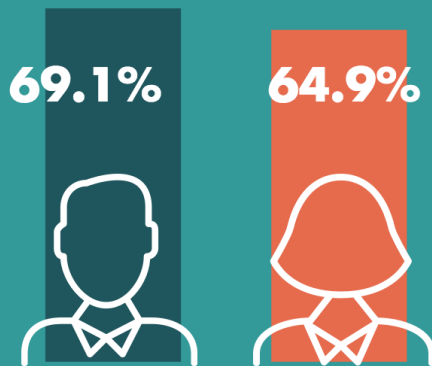
Other -  
57.0%

Among the households that received money, only 1.2% received the money through a bank.

The vast majority (57.0%) received it through other methods. Commonly this means receiving the money through a family member or close acquaintance who brings the money physically to the recipient.

# 12. Shocks

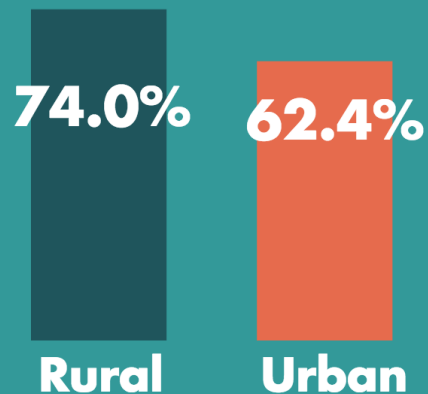
## HHs suffering a shock



64.9% of female headed households suffered at least one shock over the past 12 months. Male headed households suffered slightly more, with 69.1% of those households being shocked at least once.

## HHs suffering a shock

On average, rural households suffer shocks more often. While 62.4% of urban households had to cope with at least one shock, 74.0% of rural ones suffered one or more shocks.



## Most common shocks to hit the household

In the 12 months prior to interviews, the most common shock to hit a household was the death of a family member who is not part of the household. 33.1% of households reported suffering such a shock.

The second most likely shock was a bad harvest due to crop disease or crop pest (12.8%), followed by the shock caused by a household member suffering from a severe or chronic illness or from an accident.



**33.1%**



**Illness or accident of HH member**

**12.8%**



**Crop disease or crop pest**

**9.8%**

# 13. Subjective Welfare

## Percentage of people satisfied with...

Only 37.8% of Liberians aged 15 and above reported being satisfied with their job.

In rural areas Liberians are less satisfied with the health care and education available to them as compared to Liberians in urban areas (49.6% versus 73.8% for health care and 52.7% versus 75.4% for education).



## Health Care

73.8%



49.6%



## Education

75.4%



52.7%



## Subjective Welfare in Liberia

Across the different categories of welfare, peace and stability scores the highest percentage of Liberians who feel satisfied (94.8%). In contrast Liberians feel the least satisfied with their financial situation, with only 34.8% reporting to be satisfied. More than half of the Liberian population feels satisfied with the education available to their household (65.0%).

