REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

LIBERIA

CORE WELFARE INDICATORS
QUESTIONNAIRE
(CWIQ) SURVEY

ABRIDGED REPORT
2010

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Additional information on the CWIQ survey can be obtained from the
Director-General, Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services
(LISGIS), Statistics House, 9th Street, Sinkor, P. O. Box 629, Monrovia,
Liberia.

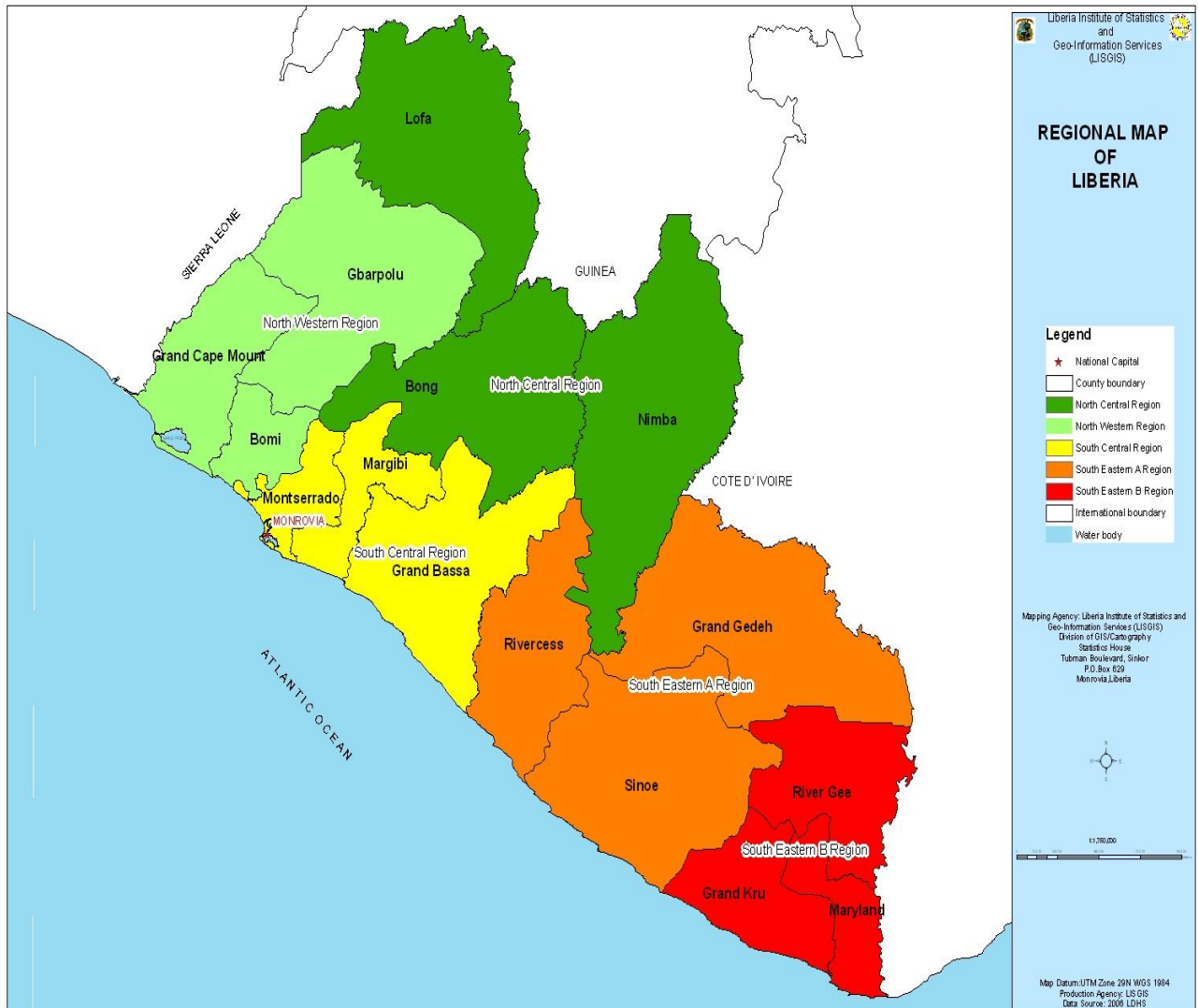Tel.: +231-651-9628/+231-681-0276

Website: www.lisgis.org

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Administrative Map of Liberia

Preface

Two CWIQ surveys have been undertaken in Liberia - 2007 and 2010. The first survey conducted in 2007 gave regional based estimates and indicators. In 2010 however, Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo Information Services (LISGIS) conducted the first county-based Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire Survey (CWIQ). This is the first nationally representative survey where county-level estimates have been derived. The surveys have been used to assess the social and economic situation in the country and have led to more informed and focused debate on how welfare and vulnerability challenges may be tackled. This survey is rich with information on topics such as, literacy and education, employment, household assets and amenities, access, use and satisfaction with basic facilities, vulnerability, subjective well-being, indirect measures of poverty using non-moneymetric measurement and others.

It is important that Government and the development partners strive to expand the economic opportunities for the less privileged and reduce their vulnerability. It is our hope that information in this report will contribute significantly to the development process and form the basis of identifying designing and refocusing welfare intervention strategies and programmes in the country.

Other publications on the 2010 Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire Survey (CWIQ) include main report, a fact-sheet, and a CD-ROM with the database and publications.

On behalf of the Government of Liberia, the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services would like to thank Government of Liberia, the UNDP, FAO and the ILO for their financial support in conducting the first county-based CWIQ survey, and the World Bank for technical assistance in processing, analyzing and publishing this abstract.

Dr. T. Edward Liberty
Government Statistician
Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services

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We extend profound thanks to the dedicated survey staff for their invaluable contribution and perseverance in ensuring the completion of the survey and this report.

Definition of Concepts

- Region: There are five administrative regions in Liberia.
- County: Liberia changed from the local authorities system of administration to the county assembly in 19XX. The country is demarcated into 16 counties out of the existing XX districts. The boundaries of the districts conform to the boundaries of the counties and regional boundaries. County is the lower-level divisions from regions.
- Urban/Rural: The rural/urban classification of localities is population based, with a population size of X,XXX or more being urban and less than X,XXX being rural, as used in earlier census.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Population defined here is not the CENSUS definition (de facto count). Population here refers to only persons living in households and excludes persons in Institutions, streets, etc.

EDUCATION AND LITERACY

- Adult Literacy is defined for persons aged 15 years and above who can read and write in any language.
- Youth Literacy is defined for persons aged 15 to 24 years who can read and write in any language.
- Primary school estimates are defined for children aged 6 to 11 years.
- Access is defined as children currently in primary schools within 5Km of a primary school.
- Enrollment (net) is defined for children currently in primary school (P1 to P6) of primary school age (6-11 years).
- Enrollment (gross) is defined for children currently in primary school (P1 to P6) of all ages.
- Satisfaction is defined for children of all ages currently in primary school who cited no problems with school.
- Secondary school estimates are defined for children aged 12 to 17 years.
- Access is defined for children currently in secondary school in households less than 5km from a secondary school.
- Enrollment (net) is defined for children currently in secondary school (S7 to S9, SH10 to SH12) of secondary school age (12-17 years).

- Enrollment (gross) is defined for children currently in secondary school (S7 to S9 and SH10 to SH12) of all ages.

- Satisfaction is defined for children of all ages currently in secondary school who cited no problems with school.

- Tertiary school estimates are defined for children aged 18 to 24 years.

- Enrollment (net) is defined for children currently in University, Vocational, Technical training and of school age (18-24 years).

- Enrollment (gross) is defined for children currently in University, Vocational, Technical training and of all ages. Overall Enrollment (net) is defined for children currently in school of school age (6-24 years).

- Overall Enrollment (gross) is defined for children currently in school of all ages.

HEALTH

- Access is defined for persons less than 5km from a health facility.
- Need is defined for persons sick or injured in the four-week period preceding the survey.
- Use is defined for persons who consulted a health practitioner in the four-week period preceding the survey.
- Satisfaction is defined for persons who consulted a health practitioner in the four week period preceding the survey who cited no problems.

HOUSEHOLD HEAD CHARACTERISTICS

- Household Head: Is defined as the person in the household recognized as the head by other household members. This is generally the person responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the household. In his/her absence, the person who takes charge of the household is considered a "temporary head". All household relationships are defined with reference to the head or temporary head.

HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES AND ASSETS

- Improved water sources is defined as having piped water in the dwelling, public outdoor tap, and protected well.

- Improved sanitation is defined for households using a flush toilet (sewer or septic tank), covered pit latrine, Ventilated covered pit latrine (VIP).

- Improved means of waste disposal is defined for households that have their refuse collected or use a public dump.

- Non-wood fuel for cooking is the use of any fuel other than firewood and charcoal for cooking.

ACCESS TO AMENITIES

- Access is having the nearest specified facility, i.e. primary school, secondary school, health facility, water source, telecommunication facility, public transport and food market, within 5km from the household.

HOUSEHOLD PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING

- Difficulty meeting food needs is defined for households that reported difficulty meeting food needs often or always.

- Household economic situation compared to one year ago: Worse is defined for households that replied much worse now or a little worse now; better is defined for households that replied a little better now or much better now.

Special Notes Concerning Survey

All tables are by region and county unless otherwise specified in the title.

Tables refer to 2010 survey unless specified.

- All percentages are weighted (grossed up) unless otherwise stated.

- To obtain national estimates, the sample figures had to be grossed up by the appropriate factor (weighting coefficient).

- Because of the effects of rounding, percentages may not always add exactly to 100.

- For the same reasons estimated numbers may not add exactly to the estimated totals shown in the table.

- 0.0 means negligible

- " " or ".." means nil.

- Percentages add up to 100 unless otherwise stated.

- 24 Households members did not state their sex.

  Therefore, a total done reflecting sex may show slightly different results when compared to the aggregate where sex is not applied

- 23 (14 missing and 9 coded as 99) household members did not report ages.

  Therefore, a total done reflecting age may show slightly different results when compared to the aggregate where age is not applied

- Missing information is not imputed.

CHAPTER ONE:INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In postwar Liberia, emphasis has been placed on the improvement of the well-being of different segments of the society and to reduce the gaps of inequality existing among these separate socio-economic and demographic sectors of society. However, it was recognized, that not all groups of the society had the same capacity and access to opportunities to deal with the effects of the adjustment process. Poverty is identified as one major factor why many people have little or no access to the basic amenities that are made available as a result of the interventions in the economy. Therefore, more reliable and timely statistical indicators were needed for monitoring poverty and the effects of various development policies, programmes and projects on living standards of the people. Such indicators were not only needed at the national level but at disaggregated levels and for various population sub-groups, especially given the recognition that district-level indicators are crucial for monitoring and evaluating poverty reduction efforts at the lower level.

After successfully implementing the first nation-wide Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) survey in 2007, which produced regional indicators, Liberia launched the 2010 CWIQ Survey which was county-based. The fieldwork of the 2010 CWIQ Survey was conducted from February to April 2010.

1.1 .1 The Unmet Basic Needs Approach to Measuring Poverty

With the absence of questions on income and expenditure in the 2010 CWIQ survey, the measurement of the non-monetary dimensions of poverty in Liberia would be more practical when using the unsatisfied basic needs approach. It is the assumption that when basic needs of people are not satisfied, it speaks well of deprivations in society. Latin American countries have long used the basic needs approach in addressing the multidimensional nature of poverty. The approach was employed extensively since the beginning of the 1980s (Feres and Mancero, 2001). In situations where household surveys were not as widespread as nowadays and income and consumption were difficult variables to measure, the census-based Unmet Basic Needs (UBN) measures became the proxy poverty analysis tool of widespread use in Latin America, while income poverty studies were restricted to specific surveys and individual studies (Duclos & Araar, 2006).

The UBN approach in Latin America combines population census information on the condition of households (construction material and number of people per room), access to sanitary services, children attending school and education and economic capacity of household members (generally the household head). Similar conditions exist in Liberia, where despite the conduct of an Income and Expenditure Survey in 2007, its continuity in tracking income

poverty has not been possible due to other factors. Additionally, since food security is a major development indicator in Liberia, number of meals in the past day will be included as part of basic needs. The UBN indicators are often reported by administrative areas in terms of the proportion of households unable to satisfy one, two, three, or more basic needs, and are often presented using poverty maps (Feres and Mancero, 2001). Thus, in practice, the approach had not offer a unique index but rather the percentage of population with different number of unmet basic needs.

Nevertheless this study shall endeavor to compute a common index of poverty using food consumption, construction material, minutes to nearest health facility, toilet facilities etc. This is a modification of the method and seeks to provide a common index of human poverty or deprivation. It actually explains the proportion of people deprived of the collection of indicators of human welfare.

1.2 Objective of the Survey

The main objectives were:
1. To provide simple indicators for monitoring poverty and the effects of development policies and programmes on the welfare of Liberians.
2. To provide reliable data on a timely basis for monitoring changes in the welfare status of households and various sub-groups of the population at the district level.
3. To ensure rapid data capture, processing, tabulation and analysis.
4. To ensure optimal precision by the use of as large a sample as is feasible given national statistical resource constraints and the need for rapid results in generating district-level indicators.

1.3 Methods and Materials

1.3.1 Geographic Levels of Analysis

Unlike the 2007 CWIQ Survey that relied upon the 1984 sampling frame, the 2010 CWIQ Survey was based upon the 2008 sampling frame. The 2010 CWIQ Survey provided disaggregated data not only at the regional level, but also goes further to provide information at county levels of analysis. This makes the results of the 2010 CWIQ Survey easier to compare with the 2008 Census results. The regional demarcation in the 2007and 2010 CWIQ Surveys were crafted not on clearly pre-existing political lines, but it provides a crude demarcation of the various counties into six regions, with each region sharing counties with clear geographic proximity. The six regions were:

1. Greater Monrovia
2. North Central-Bong, Nimba, Lofa
3. North Western-Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu
4. South Central-Monserrado(outside Monrovia), Margibi , Grand Bassa
5. South Eastern A- Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, River Cess

6. South Eastern B- River Gee, Maryland, Grand Kru

1.3.2 Sampling

An updated list of Enumeration Areas is maintained at the LISGIS, with urban and rural demarcation for each county. Greater Monrovia, was separated from the rest of Montserrado County due to its peculiar socio-demographic characteristics. Enumeration areas were selected separately from the urban and rural listings for each county. At the first stage, the required number of EAs was selected in each stratum with probability proportional to size (PPS), where the measure of size is the number of households listed in the census. At the second stage, a fixed number of households (12) were taken by systematic sampling within each EA that was picked at the first stage.

Table 1.1: Proposed design for LFS/CWIQ 2009						
	No. of EAs selected					
County	Urban	Rural	Total	Region	Urban	Rural
Bomi	24	12	36			
Grand Cape Mount	16	16	32	North western	48	48
Gbarpolu	8	20	28			
Montserrado (ex GM)	16	16	32			
Margibi	16	16	32	South central	48	48
Grand Bassa	16	16	32			
River Cess	3	25	28			
Sinoe	16	16	32	South eastern A	48	48
Grand Gedeh	29	7	36			
Rivergee	16	16	32			
Grand Kru	6	22	28	South eastern B	48	48
Maryland	26	10	36			
Bong	16	16	32			
Nimba	16	16	32	North central	48	48
Lofa	16	16	32			
Greater Monrovia	60	0	60	Greater Monrovia	60	0
Total	300	240	540	Total	300	240

While the overall number of EAs has increased by just over 50 percent, there is a marked contrast in what has happened to urban and rural EAs: the number of urban EAs has almost trebled, while the number of rural EAs has increased by less than 10 percent. This increase in urban EAs is due mainly to two factors: first, the movement of people from rural to urban areas; and secondly, a change in the designation of what counts as an urban area. In the 1984 Census, urban areas in each county "consisted mainly of the county capitals". For the 2008 Census, a much

broader definition was used, with all settlements of 2000 or more persons being counted as urban. The ratio of urban to rural EAs has thus changed from 25:75 in 1984 to 46:54 in 2008.

It is also clear from the table that the trends have not been consistent across all counties. Only one county (Sinoe) saw a drop in the number of urban EAs it contains, whereas several other counties saw massive increases in the number of urban EAs.

1.3.3 Survey Instruments

The Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) 2010 adopted a house-based questionnaire which consists of nine (5) double-sided pages. To ensure concise responses for the interviews, pre-coded multiple-choice response questions were used. The questionnaire was designed based on eight (8) distinct modules. These include:

1. Background characteristics of household members
2. Education
3. Health
4. Household Assets
5. Household Amenities
6. Displacement and Food Aid
7. Subjective Poverty
8. Human Right

1.3.4 Field Organization

The training of interviewers was guided by an interviewer's manual. This involved comprehensive and systematic explanation on: 1) the structure and content of the survey questionnaire; 2) basic concepts and definitions to be applied in the execution of the Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ) survey data collection exercise; 3) interactive discussions; simulated field trials; 4) mock interviews and how to shade a bubble or print (write) numbers in the CWIQ questionnaire.

1.3.4.1 Fieldwork

The data collection exercise for the main survey commenced on 10th February and ended on 22nd April 2003. Sixty-one teams were involved in the fieldwork which comprised a team of one supervisor, three interviewers and one driver. In addition, there were two standby supervisors and six interviewers. As a quality control measure and also boost the morale of the field staff, both scheduled and unannounced extended/extensive field trips were made by the senior project management personnel to check on the logistics, quality and progress of work.

1.3.4.2 Data Capture and Processing

Data capturing and processing were done at LISGIS using the CSPro Software. This statistical package allows the entry of huge datasets and can produce tables and cross-tabulations with much ease. Also it allows the smooth exporting of data to other statistical packages such as STATA and SPSS.

CHAPTER TWO:POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Liberia's population was estimated to be 3.6 million 2010.

55 percent of Liberia's population lived rural areas, while 30 percent were from the North Western Region and 27 percent were from Greater Monrovia.

About 51 percent of the total population was females compared to 49 percent was males

2.1 Population Characteristics

2.1.1 Population Distribution

This chapter attempts to describe the characteristics of the Liberian population covered during the CWIQ Survey weighted against the projected population of Liberia in 2010. Table 2.1 shows that the population of Liberia increased in 2010 to 3.6 million. Of the 3.6 million population, 1.6 million (54.7%) lived in urban areas while 2.0 million (54.3%) lived in the rural parts of the country.

At the regional level, the results of the 2010 CWIQ Survey show that three in ten of all Liberians resided in the North Central Region, which amounted to 1.1 million (30.5%). However, it was found that about 1.0 million (27.2%) people lived in Greater Monrovia. The least proportion of Liberians resided in the South Eastern B region, comprising Maryland, Grand Kru, and River Gee Counties. The results indicate that about 270 thousand (7.4%) of the population of Liberia was located in the South Eastern B region.

These results show a gradual shrinking of the population in rural Liberia. On the other hand, Table 2.1 displays a rapid increase in the population of Greater Monrovia, the major urban hub of Liberia. This has far-reaching social, economic and political implications for population of Liberia.

2.1.2 Distribution of the Population by Sex

There were slightly more females than males in Liberia in 2010 (as illustrated in Table 2.1). About 51 percent of the total population was females compared to 49 percent males. This is a deviation from the results obtained from the 2008 Census, where males were slightly more than females (LISGIS, 2012:10). Similar pattern was realized in urban areas where there were a greater number of females than males.

Table 2.1: Percentage Distribution of Population by Sex

	N	Male		Female		Sex ratio (males to females)
		N	Percent	N	Percent	
LIBERIA	3,693,135	1,819,415	49.3	1,873,719	50.7	97.1
Rural	2,005,021	1,003,793	50.1	1,001,228	49.9	100.3
Urban	1,688,114	815,623	48.3	872,491	51.7	93.5
Greater Monrovia	*1,005,695*	*480,140*	*47.7*	*525,556*	*52.3*	*91.4*
North Central	*1,127,558*	*549,560*	*48.7*	*577,998*	*51.3*	*95.1*
Bong	378,368	180,838	47.8	197,531	52.2	91.5
Lofa	284,292	138,034	48.6	146,258	51.4	94.4
Nimba	464,898	230,688	49.6	234,210	50.4	98.5
North Western	*323,220*	*166,593*	*51.5*	*156,626*	*48.5*	*106.4*
Bomi	105,550	54,276	51.4	51,274	48.6	105.9
Grand Cape Mount	129,275	64,990	50.3	64,284	49.7	101.1
Gbarpolu	88,395	47,327	53.5	41,068	46.5	115.2
South Central	*652,273*	*326,576*	*50.1*	*325,697*	*49.9*	*100.3*
Grand Bassa	238,979	119,180	49.9	119,798	50.1	99.5
Margribi	225,607	115,748	51.3	109,859	48.7	105.4
Montserrado	187,686	91,647	48.8	96,040	51.2	95.4
South Eastern A	*310,374*	*157,191*	*50.6*	*153,183*	*49.4*	*102.6*
Grand Gedeh	126,332	65,659	52.0	60,673	48.0	108.2
Rivercess	77,298	39,302	50.8	37,996	49.2	103.4
Sinoe	106,744	52,230	48.9	54,514	51.1	95.8
South Eastern B	*274,015*	*139,357*	*50.9*	*134,659*	*49.1*	*103.5*
Grand Kru	60,018	30,619	51.0	29,400	49.0	104.1
Maryland	137,217	68,287	49.8	68,930	50.2	99.1
River Gee	76,780	40,451	52.7	36,329	47.3	111.3

2.1.3 Household Size

In the CWIQ Survey, household size refers to the number of *de facto* population in the household. The *de facto* population is the number of persons available in the household at the time of the interview. It excludes usual residents who were absent as of the time of the interview. The average household size in Liberia was 4.98 or about 5 persons per household. This represents a slight fall from 5.1 persons per household in 2008 (LISGIS, 2012). In urban and rural areas, the average number of persons in each household was not significantly different from the national average. With an increasing shift in the population of Liberia towards urban areas, the incentives for a larger

family size tends to reduce; thus resulting in a marked reduction in the number of persons sharing common livelihoods within the household.

Average household size was largest in the South Eastern B Region of Liberia, i.e. about 5.47 people per household, followed by the North Central Region (5.14 per household). Average household size was lowest in the North Western Region of Liberia, i.e. 4.73 per household. At the county level, Grand Kru County, which recorded the highest number of persons living in a household, had an average of 6 persons per household.

Table 2.2: Household Composition (size)						
Percentage Distribution of Households by Household Composition (size) cross-classified by rural urban locations, Region and County						
	N	1-2 persons	3-4 persons	5-6 persons	7+ persons	Mean Household Size
LIBERIA	741,771	12.8	33.2	30.9	23.1	4.98
Rural	402,242	11.8	33.6	32.1	22.5	4.99
Urban	339,530	13.9	32.7	29.4	23.9	4.98
Greater Monrovia	*208,560*	*15.4*	*34.7*	*28.5*	*21.4*	*4.82*
North Central	*219,846*	*10.8*	*32.6*	*31.0*	*25.6*	*5.14*
Bong	70,450	7.5	30.5	35.6	26.4	5.39
Lofa	60,233	11.9	40.6	29.4	18.2	4.73
Nimba	89,163	12.8	28.9	28.4	29.9	5.21
North Western	*68,406*	*12.8*	*38.5*	*30.2*	*18.5*	*4.73*
Bomi	21,165	16.9	30.6	24.5	28.0	4.99
Grand Cape Mount	25,796	11.1	32.3	35.8	20.8	5.01
Gbarpolu	21,445	10.9	53.7	29.0	6.4	4.13
South Central	*134,056*	*12.0*	*35.7*	*31.8*	*20.5*	*4.87*
Grand Bassa	55,550	14.7	43.8	28.6	13.0	4.31
Margribi	46,105	11.4	29.9	39.1	19.5	4.91
Montserrado	32,401	8.3	30.1	26.9	34.7	5.79
South Eastern A	*60,787*	*14.9*	*27.2*	*31.9*	*26.0*	*5.11*
Grand Gedeh	27,078	19.3	30.9	29.9	19.9	4.67
Rivercess	15,659	12.0	29.9	37.6	20.5	4.94
Sinoe	18,050	10.7	19.3	29.9	40.1	5.91
South Eastern B	*50,116*	*9.5*	*22.9*	*37.8*	*29.8*	*5.47*
Grand Kru	9,870	4.2	19.5	36.8	39.5	6.08
Maryland	27,233	11.9	25.9	39.6	22.6	5.04
River Gee	13,013	8.5	19.5	34.6	37.5	5.90

It was also observed that about 54 percent of all households in Liberia had at least five persons. Rural and urban analysis of the household composition shows an unconventional pattern as about 64 percent of the households in urban areas had at least five persons compared to 55 percent in rural areas. The decreasing number of persons in each household in rural areas has far-reaching implications for the socio-economic livelihood of rural dwellers, who seek livelihoods through mainly subsistence agriculture. On the whole, there were more persons per household in the South Eastern B Region, with Grand Kru County recording the highest number.

2.1.4 Distribution of Population by Sex

Liberia has a youthful population, as evidenced by Table 2.2. This indicates a greater proportion of persons below age 25 years. This pattern was recurrent in both the rural and urban areas of the country. The age structure emphasizes the need for policies that focus children and youths, especially from 10-24 years. This population structure places a greater burden on the economically active population, which is mainly comprised of adults. It also indicates that the population of Liberia will continue to grow for a lengthy period even after fertility is significantly reduced.

Figure 2.1: Population Pyramid of Liberia
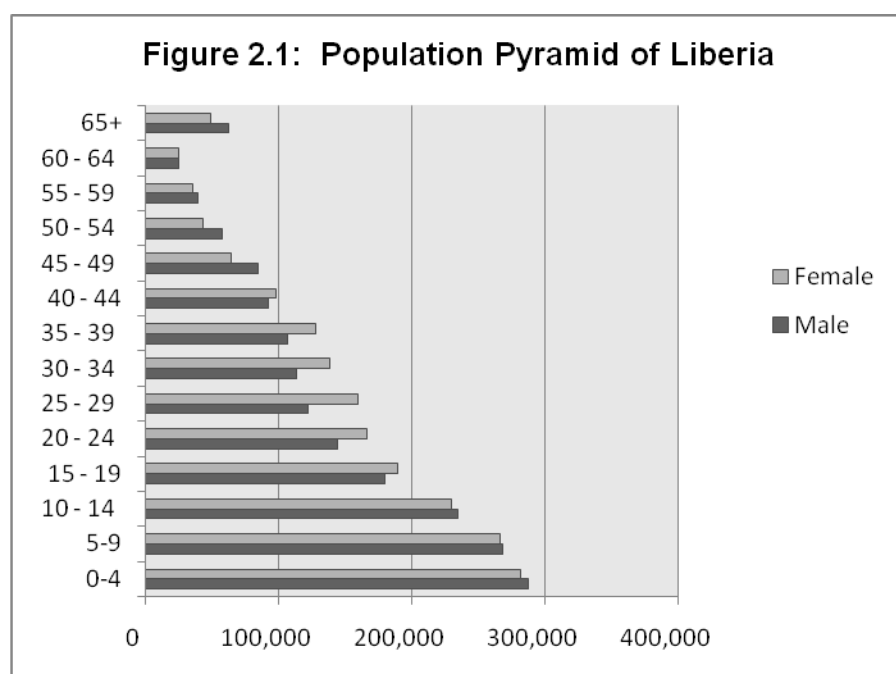
2.1.5 Contribution to Household Income

The head of the household usually conributes significantly to the household income. In Liberia where dependency is high and where most household heads are men, it is anticipated that a larger portion of the household income is contributed by the head. This is normal especially in a country with strong patriarchal cultural roots. Table 2.3 shows that a little over a quarter of all household income was contributed by the head of the household. Nevertheless,

about 17 percent of all household income in 2010 was contributed by the spouse. The pattern in the data was persistent for all counties and regions of the country. Contribution of the child of the head of the household to household income could provide an indicator , however crude, of the extent of child labour. At the national level it was realized that about 5 percent of household income was contributed by the child of the household head. Children's contribution to household income in the North Central Region was higher than the national total. In Table 2.3 , it was shown that about 7 percent of all household income was provided by children.

Table 2.3 : Contribution to Household Income						
Distribution of Population (10+ years) who Contribute to Household Income by Relationship to Head						
	N	Head	Spouse	Child	Parent	Other relative	Not related
LIBERIA	2,585,360	26.8	16.8	5.1	0.5	2.0	0.3
Rural	1,358,490	27.9	18.6	5.0	0.6	1.8	0.3
Urban	1,226,870	25.7	14.8	5.1	0.3	2.2	0.4
Greater Monrovia	*755,844*	*25.3*	*13.9*	5.9	0.1	2.4	0.3
North Central	*772,846*	26.8	18.8	6.8	1.2	2.3	0.4
Bong	252,560	26.9	18.8	7.8	1.0	2.4	0.8
Lofa	200,759	28.0	20.6	10.1	1.1	3.2	0.5
Nimba	319,527	25.8	17.7	4.0	1.5	1.7	0.0
North Western	*218,600*	*28.5*	*16.4*	3.5	0.2	2.8	0.4
Bomi	69,414	26.3	13.4	3.7	0.3	2.1	0.5
Grand Cape Mount	88,029	27.3	19.7	4.9	0.3	5.0	0.5
Gbarpolu	61,157	32.8	15.1	1.0	..	0.4	0.2
South Central	*448,685*	*28.3*	*18.1*	2.4	0.0	0.8	0.3
Grand Bassa	163,997	32.0	18.3	1.4	..	0.2	0.3
Margribi	158,599	27.8	18.6	2.6	0.1	1.0	0.2
Montserrado	126,089	24.2	17.1	3.4	0.1	1.3	0.6
South Eastern A	*203,836*	*28.6*	*16.6*	4.1	0.4	1.8	0.2
Grand Gedeh	85,103	29.9	15.6	3.6	0.6	2.2	0.0
Rivercess	48,252	31.8	26.5	7.8	0.2	2.1	0.1
Sinoe	70,480	24.8	11.0	2.3	0.1	1.1	0.4
South Eastern B	*185,550*	*25.7*	*17.5*	4.0	0.1	1.4	0.3
Grand Kru	39,708	23.0	18.4	7.0	0.3	3.3	1.0
Maryland	94,854	27.6	17.1	3.5	..	1.2	0.1
River Gee	50,988	24.1	17.7	2.8	0.1	0.4	0.1

Children's countibution to household income in a typical agrarian setting is usually high, and this happens to be case of the North Central Region of Liberia where majority of the people are involved in the agrarian sector. Children's contribution to household income in Lofa County was twice the national total, that about 10 percent. Lofa County is termed by many in Liberia as the "bread basket" of the country, since it contributes significantly to agricultural

production; hence this result follows the expected pattern of children's participation in the generation of household income in Liberia.

2.2 Household Characteristics

2.2.1 Distribution of Households Heads by Sex

Households in the Liberian CWIQ 2010 refers to a group of persons sharing a common livelihood, this may include food, housing etc. Like in most African countries, Liberia has a very strong patriarchal system where male dominance of the social fabric of society remains high. As a result, male headed households are more common in Liberia than households headed by females. Figure 2.2 shows that closed to three quarters (73.8%) of all households in Liberia are headed by males. Though urban and rural areas show very little differences in the proportion of household heads by sex, the data indicates that there were consistent patterns at the regional and county levels in terms of the sex differentials of heads of households.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of Household Heads by Sex
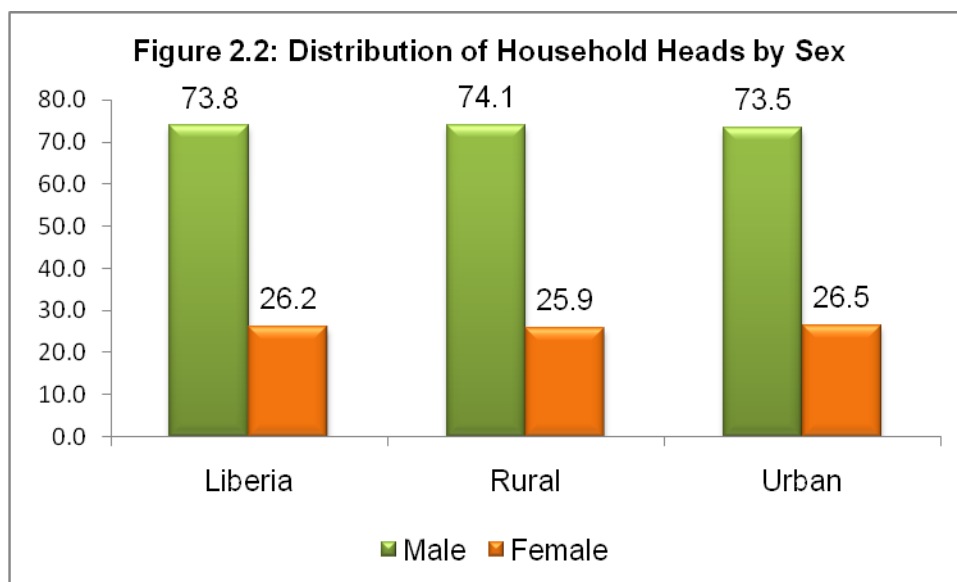
2.2.2 Distribution of Household Heads who have Ever attended School

Heads of households were asked whether they have ever attended school. Table 2.4 shows that about 63 percent of household heads had attended school. Obviously household heads in urban areas (70.5%) were more likely to have ever attended school than those in rural areas (55.7%). The proportion of household heads who have ever attended school in Greater Monrovia (75.0%) was higher than the national total. The results also show that the percentage of household heads who have ever attended school was lowest in the North Western Region (51.4%), followed by the North Central Region.

Despite the above results, county level information on the proportion of household heads who have never attended school shows that in Lofa (63.7%), Grand Cape Mount (52.7%) , Gbarpolu (56.9%)and Rivercess (51.3%) Counties majority of the households heads have never attended school.

In terms of Gender, Table 2.4 shows that male household heads were more likely to have ever attended school than female heads of household. Nationally, about seven in every ten of the male household heads have ever attended school compared to about four in ten female heads of households. In rural Liberia, about 63 percent of the male heads of households have ever attended school, while a corresponding 34 percent of their female counterparts ever attended school. In urban areas, closed to 80 percent of male household heads have attended school, while almost one-half of the females who headed households in urban areas have ever attended school. Both regional and county level information shows that male heads of households had higher chances of ever attending school than household heads who were females.

Table 2.4: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads who have Ever Attended School by Sex

	All heads			Male head			Female head		
	N	Yes	No	N	Yes	No	N	Yes	No
LIBERIA	734,867	62.5	37.5	542,899	70.2	29.8	191,968	40.6	59.4
Rural	398,890	55.7	44.3	296,222	63.3	36.7	102,668	33.6	66.4
Urban	335,977	70.5	29.5	246,677	78.5	21.5	89,300	48.6	51.4
Greater Monrovia	*206,542*	*75.0*	*25.0*	*152,590*	*82.6*	*17.4*	*53,952*	*53.3*	*46.7*
North Central	*217,856*	*52.0*	*48.0*	*153,391*	*61.8*	*38.2*	*64,464*	*28.8*	*71.2*
Bong	69,552	50.9	49.1	50,144	61.6	38.4	19,408	23.4	76.6
Lofa	59,141	36.3	63.7	37,491	48.0	52.0	21,650	16.0	84.0
Nimba	89,163	63.3	36.7	65,756	69.7	30.3	23,407	45.2	54.8
North Western	*68,005*	*51.4*	*48.6*	*50,865*	*57.9*	*42.1*	*17,139*	*32.0*	*68.0*
Bomi	21,096	64.7	35.3	14,689	72.8	27.2	6,407	46.2	53.8
Grand Cape Mount	25,796	47.3	52.7	19,433	53.3	46.7	6,363	29.0	71.0
Gharpolu	21,112	43.1	56.9	16,743	50.3	49.7	4,369	15.7	84.3
South Central	*132,126*	*62.9*	*37.1*	*102,041*	*68.5*	*31.5*	*30,085*	*43.6*	*56.4*
Grand Bassa	55,070	59.8	40.2	43,206	63.8	36.2	11,864	45.1	54.9
Margribi	45,102	60.6	39.4	35,655	66.7	33.3	9,446	37.8	62.2
Montserrado	31,954	71.3	28.7	23,180	80.2	19.8	8,774	47.8	52.2
South Eastern A	*60,318*	*64.6*	*35.4*	*47,151*	*69.8*	*30.2*	*13,167*	*45.8*	*54.2*
Grand Gedeh	27,000	68.8	31.2	21,097	71.0	29.0	5,902	60.9	39.1
Rivercess	15,494	48.7	51.3	12,299	57.3	42.7	3,195	15.5	84.5
Sinoe	17,825	72.0	28.0	13,755	79.2	20.8	4,069	47.5	52.5
South Eastern B	*50,021*	*67.9*	*32.1*	*36,860*	*76.1*	*23.9*	*13,161*	*45.0*	*55.0*
Grand Kru	9,863	61.8	38.2	7,453	74.8	25.2	2,410	21.8	78.2
Maryland	27,233	71.2	28.8	19,288	77.7	22.3	7,945	55.4	44.6
River Gee	12,925	65.5	34.5	10,119	73.8	26.2	2,806	35.6	64.4

2.2.3 Literacy Levels of Household Heads

Literacy levels of household heads follows almost similar pattern like the distribution of households heads who have ever attended school. On the overall, about three in every five of the households were literate in 2010. In addition, slightly more than 50 percent of all households in rural areas were literate in comparison to 69 percent of the household heads in urban centers. At the regional level, literacy rate was highest in Greater Monrovia (73.8%) and lowest in the North Western Region (48.9%). At all levels of geographic demarcation, the likelihood to be literate was higher among household heads who were males compared to females.

Table 2.5 :Percentage Distribution of Literacy Levels of Household Heads by Sex

	Male Head			Female Head			Overall literacy Rate
	N	Yes	No	N	Yes	No	
LIBERIA	545,391	67.3	32.7	192,726	38.3	61.7	59.7
Rural	297,026	59.6	40.4	102,786	31.1	68.9	52.3
Urban	248,364	76.4	23.6	89,939	46.6	53.4	68.5
Greater Monrovia	*153,229*	*81.6*	*18.4*	*54,292*	*51.7*	*48.3*	*73.8*
North Central	*154,166*	*59.1*	*40.9*	*64,589*	*26.9*	*73.1*	*49.6*
Bong	50,491	58.2	41.8	19,754	22.9	77.1	48.3
Lofa	37,918	48.1	51.9	21,428	16.7	83.3	36.8
Nimba	65,756	66.1	33.9	23,407	39.5	60.5	59.1
North Western	*50,904*	*56.1*	*43.9*	*17,100*	*27.5*	*72.5*	*48.9*
Bomi	14,689	68.4	31.6	6,476	36.1	63.9	58.5
Grand Cape Mount	19,403	53.2	46.8	6,255	26.3	73.7	46.6
Gharpolu	16,812	48.6	51.4	4,369	16.3	83.7	41.9
South Central	*103,028*	*62.4*	*37.6*	*30,329*	*42.1*	*57.9*	*57.8*
Grand Bassa	43,464	57.4	42.6	11,864	46.0	54.0	55.0
Margribi	36,035	58.4	41.6	9,691	35.7	64.3	53.6
Montserrado	23,529	77.6	22.4	8,774	43.8	56.2	68.4
South Eastern A	*47,198*	*65.7*	*34.3*	*13,254*	*41.5*	*58.5*	*60.4*
Grand Gedeh	21,143	69.4	30.6	5,935	56.2	43.8	66.5
Rivercess	12,299	50.6	49.4	3,250	13.6	86.4	42.9
Sinoe	13,755	73.6	26.4	4,069	42.4	57.6	66.5
South Eastern B	*36,867*	*72.7*	*27.3*	*13,161*	*41.6*	*58.4*	*64.5*
Grand Kru	7,460	68.0	32.0	2,366	14.3	85.7	55.1
Maryland	19,288	75.8	24.2	7,945	53.4	46.6	69.2
River Gee	10,119	70.4	29.6	2,850	31.3	68.7	61.8

2.2.4 Educational Attainment of Household Heads

Both at the national and sub-national levels of analysis, educational attainment of household heads was low. On the national level, 38 percent of all household heads had not completed any level of education. Comparing education the educational attainment of rural and urban household heads, the results show that about 45 percent of the household heads in rural areas had not completed any level of schooling; whereas, a corresponding 30 percent of the household heads in urban areas had not completed school. Such low levels of educational attainment among household heads in Liberia explain much of the low socio-economic status of households in Liberia.

Figure 2.3: Highest Level of Education Completed by Household Heads
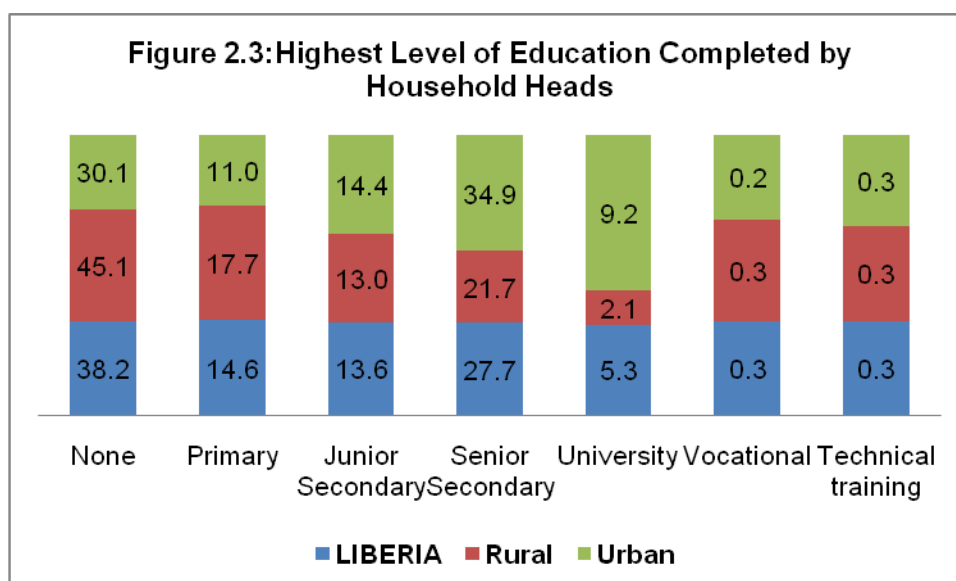
Despite this unfavorable picture of the level of educational attainment among households heads, the data shows that the proportion of heads of households that have completed secondary school in Liberia was considerably high nationally and in urban and rural areas, though not higher than the percentage of those who have not completed any level of schooling. About 28 percent of all household heads in Liberia have completed secondary school in Liberia, while about 22 percent in rural areas and 35 percent in urban areas have completed secondary school.

University , vocational and technical trainings are essential in qualifying individuals for well paying jobs on the job market, hence the percentage of people at post-secondary levels of education explains improvement in standards of living. In Figure 2.3, about 5 percent of household heads in Liberia have completed University. There was a seven percent gap between urban and rural areas in terms of completion of university education. About 9 percent of the population of household heads in urban areas have completed university education, while only two percent have completed similar level of education in the rural parts of the completed. There was almost identication percentage of households heads who have completed vocational education and technical training. This seems to be as a result of

difficulties ,on the part of both the enumerators and the respondents, in distinguishing vocational   education and technical training.

CHAPTER THREE: LITERACY AND EDUCATION

3.1 Introduction

The attainment of basic education has being deemed as an indispensable element of human wellbeing. It serves as the key determinant of the lifestyle and status an individual benefits from in a society. Overtime it has been shown that educational attainment has a strong effect on the behavior and attitude of individuals. In general, the higher the level of education an individual has attained, the more knowledgeable they are about the need and use of available facilities in their communities.

Apart from the use of resources, education had contributed greatly in the entire nexus of the supply and demand of human rights. People who are well educated are expected to have higher aspirations of life and by extension would be prone to demanding greater space for the exercise of their individual rights. Equally education, contributes greatly to how the fundamental rights and the dividends of democracy would be passed down to the citizens of a country. Hence this is likely to promote good governance and improve human livelihoods.

The government of Liberia has been deeply cognizant of how illiteracy and the inadequacy of basic education can lead to socio-economic and political exclusion; hence there has been an increased commitment to adult literacy and the provision of Free and Compulsory Primary Education. The Free and Compulsory Primary Education as was initiated by the government of Liberia as a means of achieving progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG2) which calls for universal Primary Education for all children by 2015. Also the Liberian Poverty Reduction Strategy (Pillar IV) places the improvement of education and literacy as a major component in the reduction of poverty in Liberia. This chapter discusses the major indicators that can be used to assess progress made toward achievement of the PRS and the MDGs in Liberia.

3.2 Adult Literacy

In the 2010 CWIQ Survey, adult literacy is defined as the proportion of persons aged 15 years and above who can read and write a simple sentence in any language; even though no test was administered to gauge the reading and writing skills of the respondents. Table 3.1 indicates that nearly 60 percent of all adults aged 15 years and above could read and write (see Table 3.1). There was a ten percent difference between urban and rural areas in the percentage of those who were literate. This is a predictable pattern as rural areas lacked the scale of educational infrastructures and programs found in the urban centers of Liberia. As anticipated, Greater Monrovia had the highest fraction of people who could read and write in Liberia. Table 3.1 shows that about 75 percent of all adults in Greater Monrovia were literate. On the other hand, North Western Region displayed the lowest proportion of adults who were

literate, which is about 45 percent. Among the 15 counties of Liberia, Montserrado County had the highest portion of people who were literate (69.2%). Like Greater Monrovia, Montserrado County is the main center of trade, commerce and education in Liberia. Hence it would not be surprising for Montserrado County to rank highest in adult literacy in Liberia. On the contrary, Gbarpolu had the lowest percentage (45.4%) of adults who were literate.

Table 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Adult (15+ years) Literacy Levels by Sex							
	Ability to read and write						Overall literacy rate
	Male			Female			
	N	Yes	No	N	Yes	No	
LIBERIA	1,022,404	71.7	28.3	1,083,144	46.9	53.1	58.9
Rural	536,580	64.0	36.0	570,117	36.4	63.6	49.8
Urban	485,824	80.1	19.9	513,027	58.6	41.4	69.0
Greater Monrovia	*305,160*	*84.7*	*15.3*	*316,133*	*65.2*	*34.8*	*74.8*
North Central	*299,909*	*63.8*	*36.2*	*334,815*	*36.2*	*63.8*	*49.2*
Bong	95,115	61.8	38.2	105,954	34.1	65.9	47.2
Lofa	75,774	57.3	42.7	89,160	28.9	71.1	41.9
Nimba	129,020	69.0	31.0	139,700	42.5	57.5	55.2
North Western	*90,988*	*60.1*	*39.9*	*89,823*	*30.6*	*69.4*	*45.4*
Bomi	27,596	76.0	24.0	28,165	44.4	55.6	60.1
Grand Cape Mount	37,827	54.6	45.4	36,037	25.4	74.6	40.3
Gbarpolu	25,564	51.0	49.0	25,621	22.7	77.3	36.7
South Central	*170,508*	*66.8*	*33.2*	*184,346*	*43.9*	*56.1*	*54.9*
Grand Bassa	59,304	59.8	40.2	70,767	40.1	59.9	49.1
Margribi	62,773	63.7	36.3	61,101	34.9	65.1	49.4
Montserrado	48,431	79.5	20.5	52,478	59.6	40.4	69.2
South Eastern A	*81,273*	*71.9*	*28.1*	*82,403*	*44.6*	*55.4*	*58.1*
Grand Gedeh	34,716	77.2	22.8	34,436	56.1	43.9	66.7
Rivercess	19,254	57.4	42.6	20,287	26.2	73.8	41.4
Sinoe	27,303	75.3	24.7	27,680	43.9	56.1	59.5
South Eastern B	*74,567*	*75.3*	*24.7*	*75,624*	*46.8*	*53.2*	*61.0*
Grand Kru	15,970	71.2	28.8	16,710	28.4	71.6	49.3
Maryland	37,480	78.4	21.6	39,137	56.0	44.0	67.0
River Gee	21,118	72.9	27.1	19,776	44.2	55.8	59.0

At the national level, gender differentials in adult literacy showed a substantial gap between males and females aged 15 years and about. While there was about 72 percent of the male adult population who were literate, about 47 percent of the females were literate. This gap in adult literacy is quite substantial and would require vigorous policy intervention to reduce such a gender gap. In rural Liberia, about 64 percent of the male adult population was literate

compared to about 36 percent in rural areas. For both males and females in urban areas, adult literacy was higher than in rural areas, though the difference between males and females remained consistently large.

3.3 Youth Literacy

Youths are usually considered to be those falling within the 15-24 age groups. Sometimes, in Liberia, this definition becomes blurred as it may be stretched up to 35 years. Literacy among the population aged 15-24 years was observed to be higher than the proportion of literate adults, as Table 3.4 depicts. From table 3.4, it was realized that about 77 percent of all youths in Liberia could read and write. In terms of location of residence, the data show that literacy status of urban youths (84.5%) was higher than youths in rural areas (68.8%). Generally, literacy among males aged 15-24 was higher than their female counterparts of similar age cohort. Focusing on location of residence, the results of the 2010 CWIQ Survey show that ,irrespective of sex, youths in urban areas had higher chances of been literate than their rural counterparts.

Figure 3.1: Distribution of Youth (15 -24) Literacy by Area of Residence and Sex
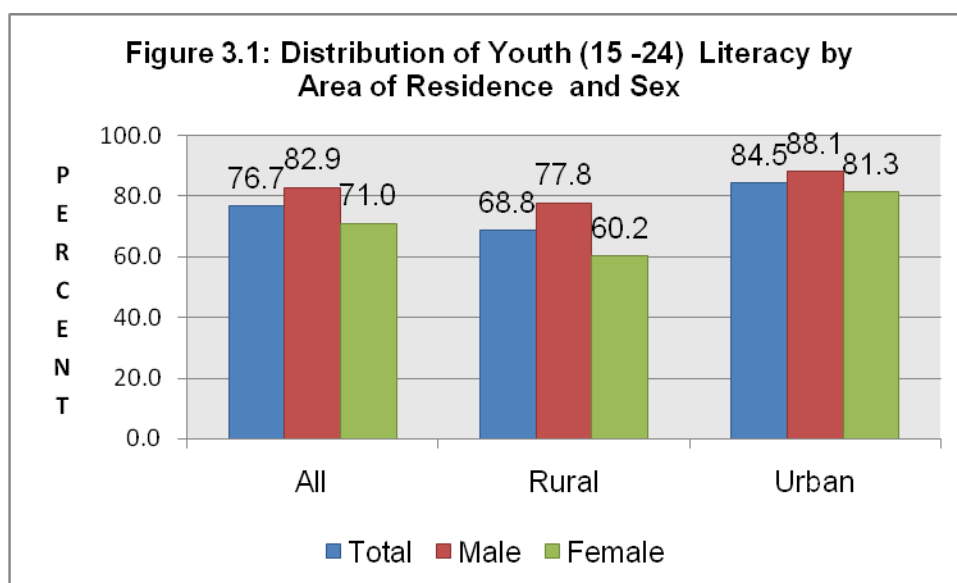
Analysis of literacy among youths (15-24 years) by single age groups indicates that literacy was highest at age 18 (82.3%) and lowest at age 23 (69.2%). The data shows that the proportion of males (aged 15-24) who could read and write was higher for all ages, except at age 17 where female literacy was higher than male.

3.4 Educational Attainment (6 years and above)

The survey collected information from respondents who were six years and above on the highest level of education completed. It was discovered that about 40 percent of all Liberians who were at least six years old had not attained any form of education. It can be realized that this percentage of people who had not completed any level of education is much closer to the proportion of adults who were illiterate, as shown in Table 3.1. Slightly more than a quarter of the population had only completed primary school. Nevertheless, the results show that the proportion of people who had completed Senior Secondary School (14.8%) was greater than the proportion of those who had completed Junior

Secondary School (11.2%). However, fewer people in Liberia (2.0%) ever succeed in completing University education, as Table 3.2 shows.

Table 3.2: Percentage Distribution Population (6+ years) by Highest Level of Education Completed

Region/County	N	None	Pre-school	Primary	Junior Secondary School	Senior Secondary	University	Vocational	Technical / technical training
Liberia	2,917,349	39.6	6.0	26.1	11.2	14.8	2.0	0.1	0.1
Rural	1,547,062	47.6	6.3	26.0	9.5	9.7	0.7	0.1	0.1
Urban	1,370,286	30.6	5.7	26.2	13.2	20.5	3.5	0.1	0.1
Greater Monrovia	*837,546*	*24.3*	*5.2*	*26.6*	*14.6*	*24.4*	*4.8*	*0.1*	*0.1*
North Central	*881,187*	*48.3*	*6.5*	*24.7*	*9.6*	*10.0*	*0.8*	*0.1*	*0.0*
Bong	290,744	51.4	8.8	21.0	8.1	9.4	1.1	0.1	0.1
Lofa	223,978	51.8	4.3	26.2	8.8	8.2	0.5	0.2	0.0
Nimba	366,465	43.7	5.9	26.6	11.4	11.5	0.8	0.1	.-
North Western	*247,293*	*50.1*	*4.7*	*26.0*	*8.8*	*9.7*	*0.6*	*-*	*0.1*
Bomi	79,848	32.3	8.0	30.7	13.3	14.9	0.8	-	0.1
Grand Cape Mount	99,868	55.1	4.4	26.4	6.3	7.3	0.4	-	0.0
Gbarpolu	67,577	63.6	1.2	19.8	7.3	7.3	0.6	-	0.1
South Central	*505,540*	*43.9*	*6.3*	*25.5*	*9.4*	*13.1*	*1.6*	*0.1*	*0.1*
Grand Bassa	180,937	48.8	7.8	21.3	9.0	11.5	1.6	-	-
Margribi	177,266	45.6	7.0	26.5	8.8	11.2	0.8	-	.-
Montserrado	147,337	36.0	3.7	29.5	10.4	17.4	2.4	0.2	0.3
South Eastern A	*230,000*	*43.2*	*6.7*	*28.0*	*11.2*	*9.9*	*0.5*	*0.3*	*0.2*
Grand Gedeh	98,821	35.6	6.6	30.5	12.6	13.7	0.7	0.3	0.1
Rivercess	51,670	59.0	6.3	23.5	6.4	4.0	0.4	0.1	0.2
Sinoe	79,510	42.3	7.0	27.8	12.6	9.2	0.2	0.4	0.5
South Eastern B	*215,783*	*37.5*	*7.4*	*30.1*	*12.2*	*12.0*	*0.4*	*0.1*	*0.2*
Grand Kru	46,486	47.7	6.7	27.6	9.6	7.2	0.9	0.1	0.1
Maryland	110,456	32.0	7.3	29.8	13.8	16.4	0.4	0.1	0.1
River Gee	58,841	39.6	8.2	32.7	11.1	7.7	0.2	0.2	0.4

In terms of place of residence, the results shows that, among people who were six years and above, there were more rural people (47.6%) who had not completed any level of education compared to those dwelling in the urban parts (30.6%) of Liberia. Also the data show that there was no major difference between urban (26.0%) and rural (26.2%) areas with regards to those who had completed primary school. As educational level increases, the level of education completed in urban areas became higher than that in rural areas.

Residents of the North Western Region (50.1%) were most likely to have not completed any level of education compared to other regions of Liberia. At the secondary and tertiary levels of education, Greater Monrovia displayed the highest percentages of educational attainment when weighed against other regions. Residents of the South Eastern B Region were most likely to complete preschool (7.4%) and primary school (30.1%) than other parts of the country. When compared to other counties, majority of residents of Gbarpolu County had not completed any level of education (63.6%).

3.5 Gross Enrollment Rates

The Gross enrolment ratio (GER) is defined as the total number of persons enrolled in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in a given school year. This is the most commonly used and most readily available measure of participation. As a result of either grade repetition or entry into level higher or lower than the official primary school age, the GER can exceed 100 percent. In Liberia, the official primary school age is 6-12 years. Thus in this chapter, the GER is computed for primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

At the national level, gross enrollment rate was about 56 percent. Comparatively, the gross enrollment rate in urban areas (64.9 %) exceeded the GER in rural areas (48.6%) of Liberia. The level of school enrollment points to better infrastructure and educational programs in urban Liberia and, by consequence, a greater tendency for people to be enrolled in school. This is also spur by better socio-economic conditions in urban areas which increases people's affordability of the growing cost of education.

There was a nine percent difference in the gross enrollment rate between males (61.1%) and females (51.9%) in Liberia. Like most education and literacy variables, men in Liberia were better disposed than women. Such a tendency remains consistent for both rural and urban areas.

Figure 3.2: Gross Enrollment Rates (All levels)
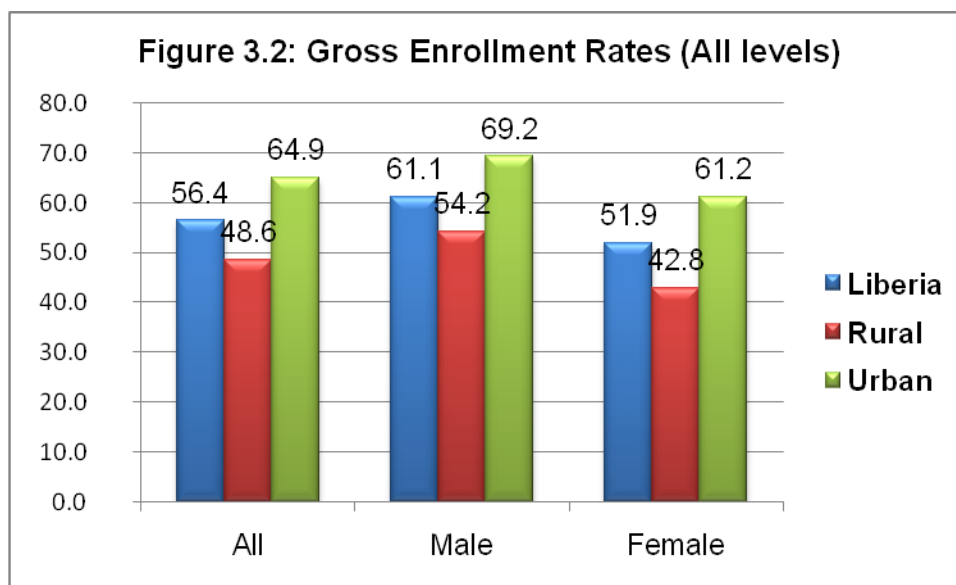
3.5.1 Primary School Gross Enrollment Rate

The primary gross enrollment rate is one of the essential variables in assessing the Liberian Government's policy of Free and Compulsory Primary Education. It is the number of persons, irrespective of age, enrolled at the primary school level expressed as a percentage of the official primary school age in Liberia, i.e. age 6-12 years. In Liberia, primary school is considered to be from Grade One to Six. The overall gross enrollment rate for primary schools was about 88 percent in 2010. This shows that a smaller proportion of primary school age children were enrolled compared to the overall population of children aged 6-12. If all children aged 6-12 were enrolled, the GER would be equal to 100 percent. Values more than 100 percent indicate that children are either older or younger than the official age range of primary school students. The gross enrollment rate in urban areas (96.5%) was higher than in rural areas (80.8%). These rates show that despite the introduction of the Free and Compulsory primary education initiative of the Liberian Government, school enrollment at the primary school level was still lower than 100 percent.

Regionally, *Great Monrovia* had the highest GER for primary schools (106.0%), followed by the *South Eastern B* Region (104.3). In *Greater Monrovia*, it is not uncommon for children who are younger than the official age for entry into primary school, i.e. six years, to be enrolled. Notwithstanding, the adult literacy program introduced by authorities has augmented enrollment of persons far older than the official age, especially in Monrovia, the national capital. In contrast, primary school gross rate was lowest in the *South Eastern A* Region (72.4%). At the county level, primary school gross enrollment rate was highest in *Maryland* County (116.9%), followed by *Bomi County* (106.6%) and *Lofa County* (102.8%). Due the poor infrastructure and socio-economic development, the GER for primary school was lowest in *Rivercess County* (45.9%) and seconded by *Gbarpolu County* (59.5 %).

3.5.2 Primary School Gender Parity Index (GER)

The Gender Parity Index was calculated as the ratio of the GER for females to the GER for males multiplied by 100 percent. Values less than 100 percent show higher enrollments for boys, while the GPI values greater than 100 percent show higher female enrollment. The Gender Parity Index at the primary school level is essential in providing information on the gender disparity in school enrollment at the primary school level. It brings to light gender inequalities in school enrollment, despite efforts to reduce the gaps between boys and girls. On the whole, the GPI in Liberia was 99.1%. This means that on the national level, there was minimal disparity between boys and girls in terms of primary school enrollment, since the value was closed to 100 percent. In rural areas (95.1%), with strong patriarchal norms, there was a higher tendency for boys to be enrolled in primary schools than their female counterparts. However, the reverse occurs in urban areas (101.7%) where primary school enrollment for girls was higher than that of boys. Among the six statistical regions, *South Central* (110.1%) demonstrated a higher number of girls who were enrolled in primary schools than boys; whereas, the *South Eastern* A Region (78.5%) displayed a higher proportion of males who were enrolled in primary schools in comparison to females. The GPI for Sinoe County was 62 percent, which indicates that for every 100 boys who were enrolled in primary school, a corresponding 62

girls were enrolled. Such a statistic emanating from *Sinoe County* indicates a greater needed for the improvement of primary school enrollment among girls. Quite the opposite, for every 100 boys enrolled in primary schools in *Grand Bassa County,* there were about 141.3 girls. This followed by a GPI of 113.9 in *Margibi County*.

Table 3.3: Primary School Gross Enrollment Rate by Sex and Gender Parity Index (GPI)				
	Gross enrolment (%)			Gender Parity Index
	Primary			Primary
	All	Male	Female	GPI
Liberia	87.7	*88.2*	87.4	99.1
Rural	80.8	82.7	78.7	95.1
Urban	96.5	95.8	97.4	101.7
Greater Monrovia	*106.0*	*108.1*	*104.2*	*96.4*
North Central	*78.0*	*78.7*	*77.4*	*98.4*
Bong	55.0	56.1	54.2	96.6
Lofa	102.8	102.1	103.5	101.4
Nimba	85.3	84.4	86.4	102.3
North Western	89.6	91.1	88.2	96.8
Bomi	106.6	104.7	108.8	103.9
Grand Cape Mount	95.7	97.6	94.1	96.5
Gbarpolu	59.5	66.3	51.3	77.3
South Central	*79.3*	*75.8*	*83.4*	*110.1*
Grand Bassa	61.8	52.8	74.6	141.3
Margribi	87.7	82.4	93.8	113.9
Montserrado	90.6	100.1	81.1	81.1
South Eastern A	*72.4*	*80.7*	*63.3*	*78.5*
Grand Gedeh	94.3	101.7	86.4	84.9
Rivercess	45.9	47.9	43.0	89.9
Sinoe	69.6	86.9	53.8	61.9
South Eastern B	*104.3*	*103.6*	*105.0*	*101.4*
Grand Kru	92.6	100.9	83.6	82.8
Maryland	116.9	113.2	121.0	106.9
River Gee	91.8	90.1	93.9	104.2

3.6 Net Primary School Enrollment Rate

Net primary enrollment rate (NER) is the number of children of official primary school age who are enrolled in primary education as a percentage of the total children of the official school age population. The net enrollment rate is a more refined measure than the gross enrollment rate. Unlike the GER the NER cannot exceed 100. The purpose of NER is to show the magnitude of enrollment in a given level of education of children and youths belonging to the official age group. This is a very important indicator in measuring rates of access to education within a certain age cohort.

The overall primary school net enrollment rate in Liberia, i.e. for children 6-12 years, was 32 percent in 2010, with 40 percent net primary enrollment in urban areas and 27 percent in rural settings. Like in the case of the GER, the NER was found to be highest in *Greater Monrovia* (48.6%), followed by the *South Eastern B Region* (36.0%).Net enrollment rate at the primary school level was lowest in the *South Eastern A Region* (22.0 %).

Further study of the primary school net enrollment rate show that enrollment was highest among primary school age children in *Maryland County* (48.2%) and seconded by *Bomi County* (44.3%). One reason for the comparatively high NER in *Maryland County* is as a result of the level of socio-cultural exposure of *Maryland County*, even compared to other counties in the same region. In Liberia, Maryland was a separate state with some levels of socio economic improvements such as a seaport, etc. *Bomi County*, however, is contiguous to the Greater Monrovia commercial hub and could have benefited from such a socio-economic proximity. Contrastingly, primary net enrollment was lowest in *Rivercess County* (11.4%) and *Grand Bassa County* (14.5%). Such a result is justifiable in Rivercess County due to its low socio-economic development and, consequently, its remoteness; but such a low primary net enrollment in *Grand Bassa County* given its level of development, could be as a result of migration of people towards the national capital and the cessation of active economic activity in the seaport city.

3.6.1 Primary School Parity Index (NER)

The gender parity index of the net enrollment rate of primary school age children is the ratio of the NER for females to the NER for males. The results of the CWIQ Survey illustrates in Table 3.4 that girls age 6-12 were most likely to be enrolled in primary school than boys, that for every 105 girls enrolled there was a corresponding 100 boys. Similar pattern existed in urban (GPI=103.7) and rural (GPI=102.8) areas of the country where female net enrollment in primary schools was higher than their male counterparts.

The data shows that there was 9 percent more female children (6-12 years) enrolled in primary schools in the *South Eastern B Region* than male children of similar age group, given the GPI of 109.0. This represents the highest female enrollment in primary schools among the six regions of Liberia. On the opposite ,in the North Western Region, boys aged 6-12 years were more likely to be enrolled in school primary school than girls (GPI=98.4). There was about 1.6 percent more male children enrolled in primary school than female.

Table 3.4: Primary School Net Enrollment Rate by Sex and Gender Parity Index				
	Net enrolment (%)			Gender Parity Index
	Primary			Primary
	All	Male	Female	GPI
Liberia	32.4	*31.6*	33.3	105.2
Rural	26.8	26.5	27.2	102.8
Urban	39.6	38.9	40.3	103.7
Greater Monrovia	*48.6*	*47.9*	*49.2*	*102.7*
North Central	*26.4*	*26.1*	*26.7*	*102.2*
Bong	17.2	15.0	19.0	126.4
Lofa	42.3	41.9	42.7	101.9
Nimba	25.5	26.3	24.6	93.3
North Western	*34.8*	*35.1*	*34.5*	*98.4*
Bomi	44.3	40.9	48.5	118.8
Grand Cape Mount	37.8	38.1	37.6	98.6
Gharpolu	18.5	24.3	11.3	46.6
South Central	*23.4*	*23.1*	*23.7*	*102.7*
Grand Bassa	14.5	11.0	19.5	177.4
Margribi	25.4	27.2	23.3	85.6
Montserrado	31.8	35.0	28.6	81.6
South Eastern A	*22.0*	*22.5*	*21.5*	*95.5*
Grand Gedeh	31.6	30.5	32.7	107.1
Rivercess	11.4	12.6	9.8	77.4
Sinoe	20.2	22.6	18.0	79.6
South Eastern B	*36.0*	*34.4*	*37.5*	*109.0*
Grand Kru	21.7	22.7	20.7	91.0
Maryland	48.2	45.3	51.1	112.8
River Gee	26.1	25.2	27.1	107.9

Further investigation of the GPI, at the county level, for the net enrollment of primary school age children indicates a huge disparity between boys and girls enrollment (6-12 years) in primary schools. In *Grand Bassa* (GPI=177.4) and *Gbarpolu* Counties. There was about 77 percent more girls than boys enrolled in primary schools in *Grand Bassa*; while in contrast, there was 53 percent more boys enrolled in primary schools in *Gbarpolu* than girls.

3.7 Sources of Information

Predominantly, majority of the population 15 years and older listen to the national radio (42.3%), the ELBC. Notwithstanding, with the proliferation of private radio stations in Greater Monrovia, it seems that most of the respondents might have mistaken radio in general for "national radio" during the 2010 CWIQ field canvass. Apart from the national radio, a considerable portion of the population also listens to community radios (31.8%) Interestingly, about 18 percent of the adult population still gathers essential information from the rumor mail, known in Liberia as "EL they say". Such a result speaks well of the reliance of a sizable portion of the adult population on informal sources of information, despite efforts to improve socio-political awareness among Liberians. Internet usage, as a source of information amidst the cyber revolution, still remains very low. In fact, internet is used by less than one percent (0.2%) of the adult population.

Table 3.5: Percentage Distribution of Population (15+ years) by Most Important Source of Information (both sexes)									
	N	National Radio	Community radio	Television	News-paper	Internet	Palava hut	Town Hall meeting	EL "They Say" (rumors)	Other
Liberia	2,060,757	42.3	31.8	0.6	0.9	0.2	2.4	3.2	17.6	0.9
Rural	1,085,060	24.7	44.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	4.2	4.9	20.9	0.9
Urban	975,697	62.0	17.9	1.2	1.7	0.4	0.5	1.3	14.0	1.0
Greater Monrovia	*607,729*	*79.5*	*2.3*	*1.9*	*2.6*	*0.6*	*0.2*	*0.1*	*12.4*	*0.4*
North Central	*616,887*	*20.6*	*53.9*	*0.1*	*0.1*	*0.1*	*4.0*	*4.3*	*16.4*	*0.5*
Bong	195,788	32.4	36.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	3.8	25.5	0.7
Lofa	157,305	24.9	32.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	12.5	7.6	20.9	1.2
Nimba	263,794	9.2	79.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	1.4	2.8	7.0	0.0
North Western	*178,663*	*15.8*	*53.8*	*0.1*	*0.2*	*0.0*	*4.0*	*13.6*	*11.5*	*1.0*
Bomi	54,818	17.4	54.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.9	5.1	19.9	0.6
Grand Cape Mount	73,078	7.1	81.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	3.7	5.6	0.5
Gbarpolu	50,768	26.5	12.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	10.3	37.1	11.0	2.2
South Central	*349,778*	*42.4*	*31.4*	*0.2*	*0.3*	*0.1*	*3.2*	*1.1*	*20.9*	*0.5*
Grand Bassa	128,872	17.6	62.1	0.2	0.4	0.0	6.8	0.3	12.6	0.0
Margribi	121,817	33.0	23.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.6	2.1	39.1	0.7
Rural Montserrado	99,089	86.3	1.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.7	9.4	1.1
South Eastern A	*159,140*	*32.0*	*36.6*	*0.0*	*0.0*	*0.1*	*1.2*	*1.7*	*25.4*	*2.9*
Grand Gedeh	67,338	45.2	25.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.7	1.8	19.7	5.6
Rivercess	39,455	20.4	53.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.3	22.3	1.5
Sinoe	52,347	23.8	38.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.1	35.0	0.5
South Eastern B	*148,560*	*23.7*	*29.8*	*0.0*	*0.1*	*0.0*	*2.5*	*5.3*	*35.2*	*3.4*
Grand Kru	32,340	15.1	11.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	8.1	58.3	4.0
Maryland	75,736	37.7	39.8	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.9	1.5	17.3	0.5
River Gee	40,484	4.3	25.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	10.1	50.3	8.4

There were clear distinctions between urban and rural dwellers in terms of the sources of information utilized. While about a larger proportion of the rural population utilized community radios (44.2%), majority of the adult population in urban areas used the national radio (62.0%) as the main source of information. In four out of six of the regions in Liberia, majority of the people use the community radio. However, in *Greater Monrovia* (79.5%) and *South Central* (42.4%) regions, most of the people use the *national radio*. This is obvious as there is fewer community radio stations in *Greater Monrovia* and that most of the people in South Central region still listen to radio stations whose signals emanate from *Greater Monrovia*.

In nine out of the 15 counties, majority of the people obtain information from community radio stations. This shows that community radio stations have positioned themselves as effective means of information dissemination, especially for people in rural areas who would require targeted messages to suit their community setting. Despite this result, the data shows that 20 percent (i.e. three of the 15 counties) of the counties still use *rumor* as the means of information consumption. These counties are Margibi (39.1%), Grand Kru (58.3%) and River Gee (50.3%). In two of the counties however, usage of the national radio as the means source of information was dominant. These counties were Montserrado (86.3%) and Grand Gedeh (45.2%). In Gbarpolu County, a proportionally larger portion of the population neither use community or the national radio but Town Hall Meetings (37.1%) as the main source of information.

4.1 Introduction

In order to accelerate socio-economic development and improve health care delivery for Liberians, the Liberian Government formulated the five-year strategic National Health Policy and Plan (2007-2011) with the sole aim of fostering Primary Health Care, Decentralization, Community Empowerment and Partnership for Health (MOH&SW, 2007).

The health sector of Liberia is focused on reducing mortality and minimizing morbidity, while overcoming problems associated with access to quality health care and establishing an equitable, effective, efficient, responsive, and sustainable health care delivery system.

In an effort to have a clearer understanding of the Liberian health sector and monitor progress made thus far, the 2010 CWIQ Survey sought to ascertain the health status of the Liberian population. This chapter presents the state of pre-natal and post natal care among women who had last births within a 12 months reference period before the survey. It also sought to establish the prevalence of diseases and the type of health practitioners tthat provide services in treating illnesses.

4.2 Live Births in the Last 12 Months

Table 4.1 presents the percentage of women who had last births in the last 12 months. It excludes women who were pregnant and had miscarriage or abortion. The number of women who had live births in the last 12 months gives a rough estimate of the fertility experience of reproductive aged women in Liberia. Table 4.1 shows that about 12 percent of all women in Liberia between 12-49 years had had live births in the last 12 months. Predictably there were vivid differences in the fertility experience of urban and rural women in Liberia as about 14 percent of the women in rural areas had had live births compared to 9 percent in urban areas. The LDHS 2007corrobrorates this finding that rural women are much more likely to be pregnant than urban women (LISGIS et al, 2008). Fertility in 2010 was highest among women (12-49 years) in North Western Region (18.2%) and lowest in Greater Monrovia (7.8%). Among the 15 political subdivisions of Liberia, there were more live births observed among women in Gbarpolu County (22.8%), while Lofa County (8.2%) registered the least percentage of women who had had live births.

4.3 Pre-natal and Post-natal Care in Liberia

4.3.1 Pre-Natal Care

About 92 percent of the pregnant women received pre-natal care in Liberia. There were slightly more pregnant women in urban areas (93.1%) who received pre-natal care than women in rural areas (90.5%). Prenatal care was observed to be highest in the South Eastern A Region (96.6%) followed by the North Western (95.7%). The results also indicate that pregnant women in Grand Gedeh received prenatal care while about 70 percent (the lowest percentage) of the women in Grand Bassa received prenatal care. Such a result shows that access to prenatal care in Grand County was very high. However, because of errors that could have emanated from sampling and non-sampling procedures associated with the research, access to prenatal care as depicted by the results in Table 4.1 needs to be re-evaluated so as to verify the validity of this result. Compared to other regions, South Central Region (81.9%) displayed the lowest percentage of women who had received pre-natal care. This picture of prenatal care in the South Central is much suspect as it has been the usual expectation that counties in this region benefited from their proximity with Greater Monrovia.

4.3.2 Post Natal Care

There was a five percent reduction in the number of women who had received post-natal from those who originally received post-natal treatments. This becomes critical to the health of the mother and child especially during the first 28 days after child birth, for it is during this period that health complications may develop for both the mother and the child. Hence a lower proportion of the women who received health care after child birth may affect the overall morbidity and mortality of both the child and the mother. Like in the case of most socio-economic indicators in Liberia, women receiving post-natal in urban areas (91.5%) were most likely to receive post-natal care than those who resided in rural areas (87.0%).

About 96 percent of the women in North Western Liberia admitted to receiving post-natal care as opposed to about 94 percent in Greater Monrovia. The rest of the regions showed fewer proportions of people receiving post-natal care. As in the case of prenatal care, it was realized from Table 4.1 that the smallest fraction of women who had received post-natal care resided in the South Central (89.7%) of the country. Analysis at the county level pointed to all women receiving post-natal care in Bomi County (100.0%), whereas a corresponding 67 percent of the women in Grand Bassa County received post-natal care. This shows that pre-natal and post-natal care in Grand Bassa was the lowest when matched with other counties

Table 4.1: Percentage of Women (12-49 years) who had a Live Birth Last 12 months and Received Pre-natal and Post-natal Care

	Live Birth last 12 months		Receive both pre- and post-natal care		Receive pre-natal care		Receive post-natal care	
	N	Yes	N	Yes	N	Yes	N	Yes
Liberia	972,228	11.7	110,191	84.7	111,836	91.5	106,793	88.6
Rural	495,482	14.2	68,797	83.3	69,594	90.5	67,202	87.0
Urban	476,746	9.1	41,394	87.0	42,242	93.1	39,591	91.5
Greater Monrovia	*305,528*	*7.8*	*22,426*	*89.4*	*23,105*	*94.1*	*21,397*	*93.7*
North Central	*283,313*	*12.9*	*35,705*	*84.0*	*35,910*	*91.0*	*34,432*	*87.8*
Bong	83,647	15.2	12,226	88.2	12,431	95.7	11,313	95.3
Lofa	78,792	8.2	6,318	89.5	6,318	89.5	6,318	93.0
Nimba	120,875	14.5	17,160	79.1	17,160	88.1	16,801	80.7
North Western	*78,529*	*18.2*	*14,244*	*93.4*	*14,283*	*95.7*	*14,032*	*95.8*
Bomi	24,485	12.3	3,005	97.6	3,005	98.7	2,970	100.0
Grand Cape Mount	30,579	19.5	5,951	90.9	6,059	92.9	5,843	94.4
Gbarpolu	23,465	22.8	5,287	93.8	5,219	97.4	5,219	95.0
South Central	*169,764*	*11.3*	*18,582*	*69.7*	*18,849*	*81.9*	*17,750*	*76.5*
Grand Bassa	65,383	12.1	7,447	62.5	7,447	69.9	7,344	67.1
Margibi	55,801	9.5	5,200	88.5	5,311	93.3	4,980	92.4
Rural Montserrado	48,580	12.2	5,935	62.4	6,092	86.8	5,426	74.7
South Eastern A	*68,146*	*16.2*	*10,866*	*88.3*	*10,947*	*96.6*	*10,872*	*89.7*
Grand Gedeh	28,731	13.9	3,838	98.4	3,808	100.0	3,838	99.2
Rivercess	15,053	17.6	2,651	89.9	2,761	96.0	2,761	90.3
Sinoe	24,362	18.1	4,378	78.5	4,378	94.1	4,273	80.8
South Eastern B	*66,948*	*12.9*	*8,368*	*89.0*	*8,743*	*93.6*	*8,311*	*91.3*
Grand Kru	13,886	17.1	2,366	85.7	2,366	95.4	2,366	87.8
Maryland	37,127	11.9	4,276	95.6	4,562	93.1	4,307	95.6
River Gee	15,934	11.7	1,726	77.1	1,815	92.8	1,638	85.2

4.4 Incidence of Illness

Table 4.2 describes the national incidence of sickness or the proportion of people who were sick for at least four weeks before the conduct of the survey and needed to see a health practitioner. The incidence of sickness excludes those who consulted a health practitioner when sick. In Liberia in 2010, 34 percent of the inhabitants had some form of illness and needed to see a health practitioner. People in urban areas (34.8%) were slightly more likely to be sick than people in rural areas (33.3%); while females were likely to report that they had some form of illness than their

male counterparts. Since the incidence of sickness here refers to those who reported that they were sick and needed to see a health practitioner, it does not actually refers to the incidence of sickness based upon the diagnosis of a trained health worker. For instance, there is no clear evidence, based upon empirical studies, to point to higher morbidity in rural areas than in urban areas, or that females in Liberia are more exposed to sickness than their male counterparts. It is important to note that due to cultural factors, most men may chose to ignore or deny that they are sick, especially to strangers. Moreover, urban dwellers might be more knowledgeable and consequently sensitive to changes in the physical states than in rural areas.

Table 4.2: Percentage Distribution of Population by Incidence of Sickness (Need) in the last Four Weeks						
	National		Sex			
			Male		Female	
	N	Sick (need)	N	Sick (need)	N	Sick (need)
Liberia	3,696,115	34.0	1,819,415	32.9	1,873,719	35.1
Rural	2,005,968	33.3	1,003,793	32.7	1,001,228	33.8
Urban	1,690,147	34.8	815,623	33.0	872,491	36.6
Greater Monrovia	*1,006,035*	*37.9*	*480,140*	*36.2*	*525,556*	*39.5*
North Central	*1,129,069*	*34.2*	*549,560*	*33.1*	*577,998*	*35.3*
Bong	379,467	44.7	180,838	44.2	197,531	45.4
Lofa	284,703	25.8	138,034	23.9	146,258	27.7
Nimba	464,898	30.7	230,688	29.9	234,210	31.4
North Western	*323,382*	*42.6*	*166,593*	*42.1*	*156,626*	*43.2*
Bomi	105,550	27.2	54,276	26.4	51,274	28.1
Grand Cape Mount	129,290	47.4	64,990	46.8	64,284	48.0
Gbarpolu	88,542	54.0	47,327	53.6	41,068	54.6
South Central	*653,176*	*24.1*	*326,576*	*23.8*	*325,697*	*24.5*
Grand Bassa	239,345	29.1	119,180	28.9	119,798	29.4
Margibi	226,145	14.7	115,748	14.4	109,859	15.0
Rural Montserrado	187,686	29.0	91,647	28.9	96,040	29.2
South Eastern A	*310,374*	*34.1*	*157,191*	*33.6*	*153,183*	*34.6*
Grand Gedeh	126,332	26.6	65,659	27.1	60,673	26.1
Rivercess	77,298	57.2	39,302	54.4	37,996	60.0
Sinoe	106,744	26.2	52,230	26.0	54,514	26.4
South Eastern B	*274,079*	*32.1*	*139,357*	*29.9*	*134,659*	*34.3*
Grand Kru	60,018	37.8	30,619	36.5	29,400	39.2
Maryland	137,281	20.6	68,287	16.7	68,930	24.3
River Gee	76,780	48.3	40,451	47.4	36,329	49.4

4.5 Type of Illness

Figure 4.1 looks at the percentage of the population who were sick or injured by type of illness. Since this was not based upon a clear diagnosis of the illnesses mentioned in Figure 4.1, the results emanating from this figure only gives a rough estimate of the type of illnesses that plagued those who were sick.

The results show that in Liberia, nearly one in every four (24.0%) persons had suffered from fever or malaria. This is likely to be the case because Liberia is in the tropics heavy rainfall and humidity promotes the climatic condition that supports parasites that cause malaria and other forms of fever. Pain in the back, limbs or joints as well as diarrhea or abdominal pains were also common, although they contribute to only 4 percent (respectively) of the population who were sick or injured.

Figure 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Population Sick or Injured by Type of Illness

Type of Illness	Percentage
Other	2.1
Accident	0.2
Dental	0.3
Ear, nose, throat or eye	0.8
Skin problems	0.9
Coughing/ breathing difficulties	1.9
Pain in back, limbs or joints	4.4
Diarrhea/ abdominal pains	3.5
Fever or malaria	23.9
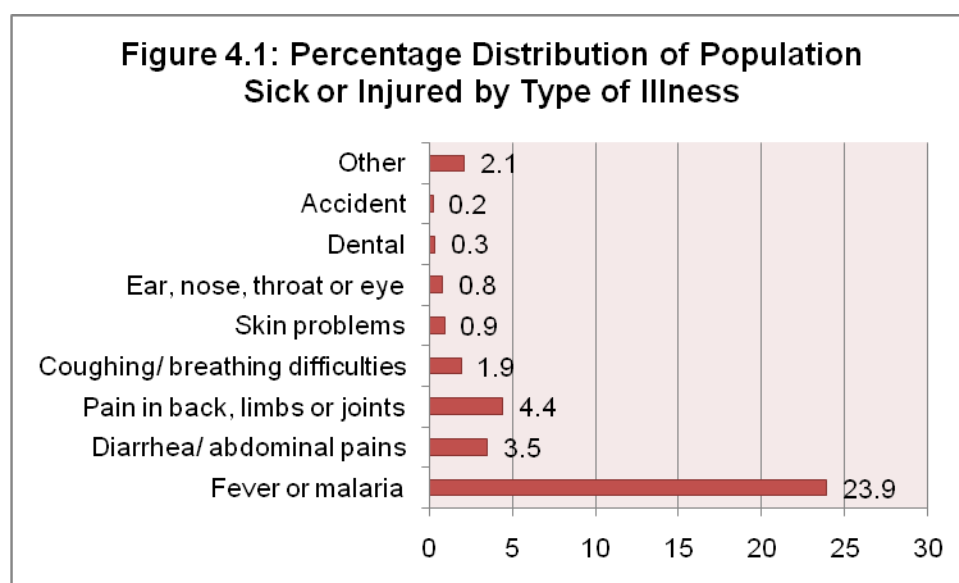
4.6 Consulting a Health Practitioner

4.6.1 Consulting a Health Practitioner When Sick

In Liberia , consulting a health practitioner during times of sickness was the usual practice for the majority covered during the 2010 CWIQ Survey, irrespective of where they lived. Table 4.3 indicated that about 90 percent of the population in Liberia consulted a health worker when they were sick. For those who fell sick during the four weeks reference period, the results show that there was greater consistency on the national level in terms of seeking treatment from a health practitioner. Despite the gender or location of the individual, nine in every ten of the population was likely to seek treatment from a health practitioner when they fell ill.

People in the North Western Region (92.7%) were most likely to seek treatment from a health practitioner when sick than other regions. This percentage was followed by the Greater Monrovia Region (91.7%) .But the South Central (83.6%) and the South Eastern B (85.4%) regions display lower percentages of persons who sought treatment from a health practitioner when sick.

Table 4.3: Consulting a Health Practitioner When Sick						
Percentage Distribution of Population Who Consulted a Health Practitioner When Sick by Sex						
	Consulted a health practitioner (sick)					
			Sex			
			Male		Female	
	N	Use	N	Use	N	Use
Liberia	1,256,160	89.6	597,723	89.6	658,201	89.7
Rural	667,292	89.5	328,576	89.7	338,652	89.4
Urban	588,868	89.7	269,147	89.5	319,549	90.0
Greater Monrovia	*381,313*	*91.7*	*173,631*	*91.4*	*207,682*	*92.0*
North Central	*385,844*	*89.7*	*181,920*	*89.5*	*203,767*	*90.0*
Bong	169,703	92.9	79,870	92.4	89,676	93.4
Lofa	73,568	83.6	33,054	83.6	40,514	83.6
Nimba	142,573	89.1	68,996	88.9	73,577	89.4
North Western	*137,842*	*92.7*	*70,120*	*93.5*	*67,708*	*91.8*
Bomi	28,740	91.2	14,320	93.2	14,420	89.2
Grand Cape Mount	61,322	93.2	30,428	93.8	30,879	92.5
Gharpolu	47,780	93.0	25,371	93.3	22,409	92.7
South Central	*157,330*	*83.6*	*77,579*	*86.0*	*79,751*	*81.2*
Grand Bassa	69,601	87.2	34,426	90.9	35,175	83.5
Margribi	33,214	79.9	16,698	83.0	16,515	76.8
Montserrado	54,516	81.2	26,455	81.4	28,060	81.0
South Eastern A	*105,796*	*90.1*	*52,744*	*88.4*	*53,053*	*91.8*
Grand Gedeh	33,639	87.1	17,792	83.3	15,847	91.3
Rivercess	44,197	94.7	21,388	93.9	22,809	95.4
Sinoe	27,961	86.6	13,564	86.5	14,397	86.6
South Eastern B	*88,034*	*85.4*	*41,729*	*84.1*	*46,241*	*86.7*
Grand Kru	22,690	83.7	11,180	82.6	11,510	84.7
Maryland	28,229	89.3	11,390	92.3	16,775	87.7

| River Gee | 37,116 | 83.4 | 19,160 | 80.0 | 17,956 | 87.0 |

4.6.2 Consulting a Health Practitioner Whether Sick or Not

Consulting a health practitioner whether sick or not is a basic part of preventive or primary health care. The more the number of persons who consult a health worker before falling ill, the greater will be the reduction in the level of morbidity and by consequence reduction in mortality. Table 4.4 shows that result of population seeking health care whether they were sick or not.

Table 4.4 : Consulting a Health Practitioner whether sick or not						
Percentage Distribution of Population Who Consulted a Health Practitioner whether sick or not by Sex						
	Consulted a health practitioner whether sick or not					
			Sex			
			Male		Female	
	N	Consulted	N	Consulted	N	Consulted
Liberia	3,696,115	34.1	1,819,415	33.2	1,873,719	35.1
Rural	2,005,968	32.0	1,003,793	31.7	1,001,228	32.4
Urban	1,690,147	36.6	815,623	35.1	872,491	38.1
Greater Monrovia	*1,006,035*	*42.2*	*480,140*	*40.8*	*525,556*	*43.5*
North Central	*1,129,069*	*33.1*	*549,560*	*32.3*	*577,998*	*33.9*
Bong	379,467	43.9	180,838	43.5	197,531	44.4
Lofa	284,703	24.2	138,034	22.8	146,258	25.6
Nimba	464,898	29.7	230,688	29.2	234,210	30.2
North Western	*323,382*	*41.6*	*166,593*	*41.3*	*156,626*	*41.8*
Bomi	105,550	26.9	54,276	26.7	51,274	27.0
Grand Cape Mount	129,290	46.0	64,990	45.8	64,284	46.1
Gbarpolu	88,542	52.7	47,327	51.9	41,068	53.5
South Central	*653,176*	*22.5*	*326,576*	*22.7*	*325,697*	*22.4*
Grand Bassa	239,345	27.9	119,180	28.4	119,798	27.5
Margibi	226,145	13.1	115,748	13.6	109,859	12.6
Montserrado	187,686	27.0	91,647	26.9	96,040	27.1
South Eastern A	*310,374*	*32.1*	*157,191*	*31.1*	*153,183*	*33.0*
Grand Gedeh	126,332	24.5	65,659	24.0	60,673	25.1
Rivercess	77,298	55.6	39,302	52.8	37,996	58.5
Sinoe	106,744	23.9	52,230	23.7	54,514	24.1
South Eastern B	*274,079*	*30.1*	*139,357*	*28.0*	*134,659*	*32.3*
Grand Kru	60,018	37.2	30,619	35.4	29,400	39.0

Maryland	137,281	20.0	68,287	17.4	68,930	22.7
River Gee	76,780	42.6	40,451	40.4	36,329	45.1

In Liberia (see Table 4.4), only 34 percent of the population consult a health practitioner even if they are not sick. Females (35.1%) were more likely to seek preventive health care than males (33.2%). Also urban dwellers (36.6%) were showed a greater tendency of consulting a health worker even if they were not sick compared to people living in rural areas (32.0%).

The data results also reveal that Greater Monrovia (42.2%) and the North Western Region (41.6%) had the highest proportion of persons who consulted health workers irrespective of their present health status. Though the South Central Region has close proximity to Monrovia, the national political and economic capital, the statistics presented in Table 4.4 shows a greater variation from the patterns expected. With only 23 percent consulting a health practitioner for preventive checkups, the results emanating from the South Central Region signifies an underlying need for increase in preventive health care in this statistical region.

CHAPTER FIVE: HOUSEHOLD AND SOCIO AMENITIES, HOUSEHOLD AMENTIES

5.1 Introduction

Housing is one of the basic needs of mankind, since it provides the shelter and comfort needed to promote a conducive human habitation. The nature of tenancy of the dwelling unit, the materials use for the construction of the house, sanitation facility, access to social amenities such as hospitals and schools are all necessary in making the condition of dwelling in a location to be appropriate enough for human existence. This chapter shall discuss household assets and amenities and as wells as social amenities.

5.2 Household Asset and Amenities

5.2.1 Land Size Owned in Hectares

Land is considered as a major household asset in Liberia. In Liberia, the size of land owned by households points to the extent of household wealth; especially where money is not the only factor in the measurement of poverty. For years, ownership of land was a major precondition for the exercise of one political franchise through voting. Table 5.1 depicts that about 62 percent of the households in Liberia do not own land. But rural households were more likely to own land than their urban counterparts. About half of the households in rural areas were landless; while a corresponding three in four of the households in urban areas did not own land.

Equally, most of the landless households in Liberia were found in the Greater Monrovia Region. In actuality, about 87 percent of household heads in Liberia did not own land. This explains the extent of the land crisis in Monrovia and gives for meaning to the growing cost of land and the extension of the suburbia. Further away from Monrovia, the proportion of landless households tends to shrink.

On the contrary, of the 38 percent of the households that own land in Liberia, a quarter of that percentage (i.e. 9.1%) owned less than 0.6 hectares of land. In other words, one in every four of the households owning land possessed less than 1.5 acres of land. In rural areas, about a little more than half (50.1%) of the households own land. Of this 51 percent, 34 percent of the household heads own less than two hectares, This means that 67 percent of the household that own land in rural areas own at most five acres of land. In urban areas, land ownership was low. Out of every four households in urban centers, only one was reported to own land. Though 67 percent of the land owners in

rural Liberia owned less than 5 acres (2 hectares) of land, in urban areas about 51 percent of the land owners own similar land area. This shows that though a larger proportion of the households in rural areas own land, on average, urban households own larger areas of land than rural households.

Table 5.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Land Size Owned (ha)										
	N	Landless	0.01-0.59 ha	0.6-0.99 ha	1.0-1.99 ha	2.0-2.99 ha	3.0-3.99 ha	4.0-4.99 ha	5.0-7.99 ha	8.0+ ha
LIBERIA	741,642	61.6	9.1	7.7	7.3	3.9	1.1	1.5	0.9	6.9
Rural	402,143	49.3	12.1	11.1	10.9	5.4	1.8	2.2	1.2	6.1
Urban	339,498	76.1	5.7	3.7	3.0	2.1	0.4	0.7	0.5	7.8
Greater Monrovia	*208,560*	*86.7*	*2.1*	*0.6*	*0.7*	*0.3*	*..*	*0.2*	*..*	*9.4*
North Central	*219,846*	*33.6*	*14.2*	*16.2*	*14.7*	*6.8*	*2.1*	*2.3*	*1.8*	*8.2*
Bong	70,450	34.7	19.9	18.8	11.5	7.5	1.1	0.5	1.7	4.3
Lofa	60,233	23.2	12.3	21.9	23.8	8.1	4.2	1.3	0.7	4.5
Nimba	89,163	39.9	11.0	10.4	11.2	5.2	1.5	4.4	2.6	13.8
North Western	*68,406*	*59.5*	*6.6*	*5.3*	*10.3*	*6.6*	*2.0*	*3.4*	*1.2*	*5.1*
Bomi	21,165	65.9	4.6	0.2	2.8	2.2	1.3	10.3	2.0	10.8
Grand Cape Mount	25,796	38.8	6.5	7.5	23.2	15.0	4.1	0.4	0.9	3.6
Gharpolu	21,445	78.1	8.6	7.5	2.2	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.8	1.3
South Central	*133,958*	*74.8*	*7.5*	*4.1*	*2.7*	*3.2*	*1.1*	*1.3*	*1.0*	*4.4*
Grand Bassa	55,550	70.1	10.0	5.8	3.3	5.7	1.8	2.0	..	1.4
Margribi	46,105	89.3	2.9	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.3	..	0.5	4.0
Montserrado	32,303	62.2	9.5	5.5	4.2	2.1	0.9	2.2	3.3	10.2
South Eastern A	*60,756*	*56.6*	*16.7*	*9.3*	*9.2*	*3.6*	*0.8*	*1.2*	*0.4*	*2.2*
Grand Gedeh	27,078	49.0	21.6	15.5	5.0	3.8	0.5	0.1	0.3	4.2
Rivercess	15,659	61.2	9.1	5.3	14.9	4.6	1.5	1.9	0.4	1.2
Sinoe	18,018	64.2	15.8	3.6	10.5	2.5	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.2
South Eastern B	*50,116*	*52.9*	*14.9*	*11.3*	*8.4*	*4.6*	*0.8*	*1.5*	*0.5*	*5.0*
Grand Kru	9,870	21.4	19.7	26.4	21.5	4.7	0.5	0.6	0.4	4.9
Maryland	27,233	70.7	12.8	5.7	3.2	2.3	..	1.2	..	4.2
River Gee	13,013	39.7	15.8	11.7	9.3	9.3	2.8	2.9	1.7	6.8

5.2.2 Condition of Tenancy

About three in five (60.0%) of the household heads live in their own dwelling. Ownership of housing was more common among residents in Liberia. At the regional, county, rural and urban levels of analysis a greater proportion of the population live in their own dwelling. About 23 percent of the households live in rented facilities, while 17 percent live dwelling without paying rent and less than one percent live in nomadic or temporary dwelling.

Figure 5.1:Percentage Distribution of Households by Housing Tenure and Secured Tenured
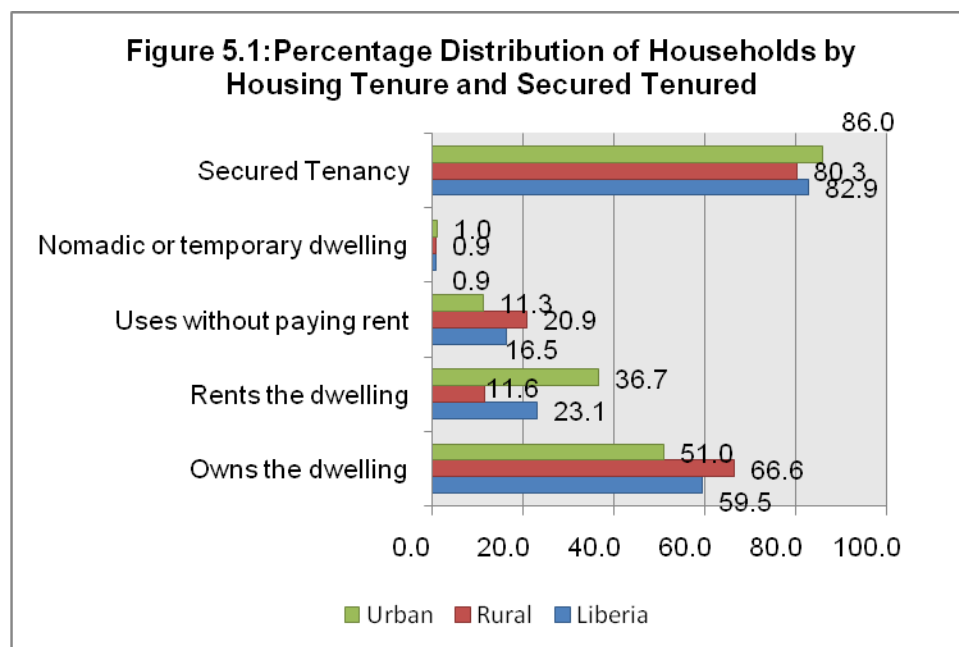
Apart from Greater Monrovia where close to 50 percent of the households live in rented facility, all other regions displayed results that indicate that ownership of housing unit was the most widespread.

5.2.3 Secured Tenancy

Secured tenancy is defined here as the possession of land and deed, leasehold, freehold, tenancy agreement and receipt for payment for a plot of land the household is dwelling on. It explains the type of document to prove occupancy. Figure 5.1 shows that slightly more than four in five of the households had secured tenure of land in Liberia. Urban residents (86.0%) were most likely to have secured tenure of land compared to rural residents (80.3%).

5.2.4 Home Ownership and Being at risk of being forced to leave dwelling

Further analysis was conducted on the risk of being forced to leave the dwelling or land, as described in Table 5.1. The data shows that about 10 percent of the households in Liberia were in risk of being forced to leave the dwelling or land.

Of the households that possess their own dwelling, about six percent were in risk of being forced to leave the dwelling. Nomadic dwellers (29.9%) and those who live on rented premises (18.9%) were predictably at greater risk of being forced to leave the dwelling or land. Households that live on premises without paying rent (12.2%) also had less risk compared to those who live in nomadic or rented dwelling places.

Table 5.2: Percentage Distribution of Households At Risk of Being Forced by Home Ownership					
		Are you in risk of being forced to leave the household and/or land			
		Yes		No	
	Total	Count	%	Count	%
LIBERIA	**740,814**	**75,373**	**10.2**	**665,441**	**89.8**
Owns the dwelling	440,476	26,016	5.9	414,460	94.1
Rents the dwelling	171,345	32,460	18.9	138,885	81.1
Uses without paying rent	122,088	14,836	12.2	107,252	87.8
Nomadic or temporary dwelling	6,906	2,061	29.9	4,844	70.1

5.2.5 Materials used for the Construction of the House

5.2.5.1 Main Material Used for the Construction of the Wall

Apart from urban and rural households that show variation in the materials used for the construction of the outer wall of the house, the bulk of the households in Liberia live in houses constructed with mud[1] In urban areas majority (53.7%) percent of the households live in houses constructed with stones[2] while in rural areas (84.5%) the larger portion of the households live in houses constructed with mud. About 62 percent of all households in Liberia live in houses constructed with mud, whereas about 32 percent live in stone constructed houses. Analysis of the county and regional levels show also that excluding greater Monrovia where nearly three-quarters of the households live in houses constructed with stones, all the other regions and counties had most of the households living in mud constructed houses.

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[1] *Mud includes mud/wattle and mud bricks*

[2] *Stone includes burnt bricks, clay bricks, concrete/cement blocks*

Figure 5.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Material Used for Wall Construction of the House

Legend: Mud, Iron sheets, Stone, Timber/ wood, Poles/reeds/mats, Tarpaulin

Values: 61.7, 4.7, 31.7, 0.5, 1.4, 0.0
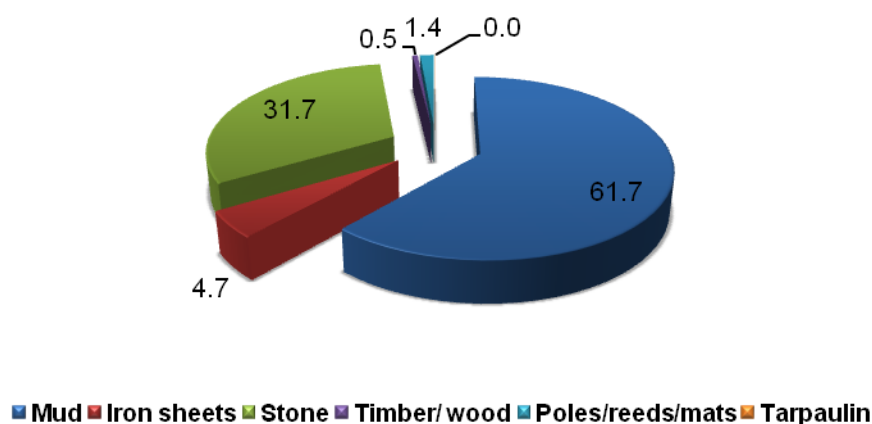
5.2.5.2 Main Material Used for Roof Construction of the House

The quality of materials used to construct the roof of the house also serves as an indicator to measure the standard of living of the household. The 2010 CWIQ Survey indicates that 66 percent of all the households in Liberia live in houses with iron sheets, while 26 percent of the houses had thatched roofs. The use of iron sheets as the main material for the roofing of the house indicates improvements in the standard of living. In the past, when the quality of the materials used for the roofing of the house was not well refined, roofs made of palm thatch, bamboo or grass straw was more common.

Despite a greater proportion of the houses in urban areas (75.9%) were constructed with iron sheets in comparison to rural areas (58.1%), iron sheets were used in both locations most often for the construction of the roof of houses.

Taking a snapshot of the regions under study, the use of iron sheets was more dominant in all other regions, except in the two Regions in South Eastern Liberia (South Eastern A&B). In both South Eastern A (61.4%) and South Eastern B (56.9%), majority of the households were constructed with thatched roofs.

Table 5.3: Main Material Used for Roof Construction of the House

Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Material Used for Roof Construction of the House

	N	Thatch	Iron sheets	Tarpaulin	Cement/concrete	Roofing tiles	Asbestos
LIBERIA	740,369	25.8	66.2	2.1	4.4	0.2	1.3
Rural	400,981	38.4	58.1	1.1	0.8	0.0	1.5
Urban	339,388	10.9	75.9	3.2	8.6	0.3	1.1
Greater Monrovia	*208,560*	*1.5*	*79.3*	*4.0*	*13.4*	*0.5*	*1.3*
North Central	*219,403*	*26.3*	*71.4*	*1.8*	*0.3*	-	*0.1*
Bong	70,450	22.3	75.2	1.2	1.1	-	0.2
Lofa	59,790	36.2	60.7	3.1	-	-	-
Nimba	89,163	23.0	75.6	1.5	-	-	-
North Western	*68,283*	*34.5*	*63.1*	*0.7*	*0.4*	*0.1*	*1.2*
Bomi	21,165	15.2	78.9	1.6	-	0.5	3.8
Grand Cape Mount	25,673	33.6	65.4	0.1	1.0	-	-
Gharpolu	21,445	54.8	44.6	0.6	-	-	-
South Central	*133,533*	*30.4*	*62.5*	*1.9*	*1.6*	*0.1*	*3.4*
Grand Bassa	55,550	42.1	55.1	1.8	0.9		0.2
Margribi	45,836	25.6	62.5	1.1	1.8	0.3	8.7
Montserrado	32,147	17.2	75.4	3.3	2.8	-	1.3
South Eastern A	*60,526*	*61.4*	*35.3*	*0.1*	*0.6*	-	*2.5*
Grand Gedeh	27,048	63.4	35.8	-	0.8	-	-
Rivercess	15,549	85.3	14.4	.-	0.4	-	-
Sinoe	17,929	37.7	52.8	0.5	0.6	-	8.5
South Eastern B	*50,065*	*56.9*	*40.8*	*0.1*	*1.8*	-	*0.5*
Grand Kru	9,819	75.7	23.8	0.1	0.5	-	-
Maryland	27,233	48.2	47.7	0.1	3.2	-	0.9
River Gee	13,013	61.0	39.0	-	-	-	-

5.2.5.3 Main Material used for the Construction of the Floor

In terms of the floor of the house, the results show that slightly more than 50 percent of the households live in houses whose floors were made of earth or mud. However, cement or concrete still comprises a significant portion of houses in Liberia. About 46 percent of the households in Liberia live in houses with cement or concrete floor.

There was a vivid distinction between urban and rural areas as regards the material used for the construction of the floor. About 71 percent of the households in rural areas had earth or mud roof, in contrast about 66 percent of urban households live in households made of cement or concrete.

The data further reveal that earth or mud was predominantly used in all regions, apart from Greater Monrovia, where about 83 percent of the households had cement or concrete roof.

Table 5.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Material Used for Floor Construction of the House							
	N	Earth/ mud	Wood planks	Stone	Tiles	Cement/ concrete	Polished wood	Other
LIBERIA	740,386	50.7	0.5	0.1	2.6	45.6	0.4	0.0
Rural	401,360	70.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	28.2	0.2	-
Urban	339,026	27.4	0.5	.-	5.2	66.3	0.6	0.1
Greater Monrovia	208,220	8.6	0.7	-	6.8	82.9	0.8	0.2
North Central	219,403	71.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	28.1	-	-
Bong	70,450	69.2	0.5	0.3	-	30.0	-	-
Lofa	59,790	78.0	-	0.4	0.3	21.3	-	-
Nimba	89,163	68.7	-	-	0.3	31.0	-	-
North Western	68,283	66.8	1.6	0.5	0.7	30.3	0.2	-
Bomi	21,165	53.2	0.7	0.3	1.9	43.5	0.3	-
Grand Cape Mount	25,673	56.7	1.5	-	0.2	41.4	0.3	-
Gharpolu	21,445	92.4	2.6	1.2		3.8		-
South Central	133,801	55.8	-	-	2.8	41.2	0.3	-
Grand Bassa	55,550	60.8	-	-	2.2	37.0	-	-
Margribi	46,105	51.0	-	-	3.6	44.8	0.6	-
Montserrado	32,147	53.9	-	-	2.6	43.2	0.3	-
South Eastern A	60,613	78.0	1.3	-.	0.4	19.7	0.6	-
Grand Gedeh	27,025	81.9	-	-	0.2	17.7	0.2	-
Rivercess	15,659	92.9	1.4	-	0.4	5.0	0.4	-
Sinoe	17,929	59.0	3.1	-	0.8	35.7	1.5	-
South Eastern B	50,065	67.1	0.4	-	0.3	31.9	0.3	0.0
Grand Kru	9,819	83.7	.-	-	-	16.1	-	0.1
Maryland	27,233	52.6	0.5	-	0.3	46.1	0.5	-
River Gee	13,013	85.0	0.7	-	0.3	14.0	-	-

5.2.6 Water and Sanitation

5.2.6.1 Access to Improved Sources of Drinking Water

Improved water source was defined as piped water (in dwelling and public pipe), water gotten from a vendor or truck, and protected well. The results show that about 61 percent of the population in Liberia, had access to improved sources of drinking water. Urban and rural areas show clear disparity in the main sources of drinking water obtained by households. While about three out of every four (75.6%) households in urban areas had access to improved sources of drinking water, only one in every two households in rural areas had similar access to improved sources of drinking water.

Table 5.5: Improved Water Source		
Percentage Distribution of Households by Improved Water Source		
	N	Improved water source
Liberia	731,300	61.0
Rural	396,521	48.7
Urban	334,779	75.6
Greater Monrovia	205,542	90.2
North Central	216,607	62.9
Bong	69,542	55.2
Lofa	59,347	60.0
Nimba	87,718	70.9
North Western	67,119	40.1
Bomi	20,957	59.1
Grand Cape Mount	25,225	33.8
Gharpolu	20,937	28.7
South Central	132,318	39.7
Grand Bassa	54,617	44.0
Margribi	46,105	30.0
Montserrado	31,597	46.2
South Eastern A	59,973	54.7
Grand Gedeh	26,762	69.9
Rivercess	15,329	17.2
Sinoe	17,882	64.2
South Eastern B	49,740	25.6
Grand Kru	9,671	34.4
Maryland	27,233	6.3
River Gee	12,836	59.8

Greater Monrovia, in usual fashion, led the other regions in Liberia, in its access to improved sources of drinking water. About 90 percent of the households in Greater Monrovia had access to improved sources of drinking water. With increasing number of communities having access to pipe water being provided by the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) and the proliferation of vendor water (commonly known as "mineral water"), it comes not as a surprise for households in Greater Monrovia to be well disposed than the rest of the country.

Among the other regions, households in the North Central Region (62.9%) had the highest access to improved sources of drinking water while the South Eastern B had the least access (25.6%). Access to improved sources of

drinking water among households in the 15 counties ranged from about 71 percent in Nimba County to six percent in Maryland.

5.2.6.2 Main Type of Toilet and Safe Sanitation

The type of toilet facility used for the disposal of human waste is necessary for the maintenance of a healthy environment. The outcome of the 2010 CWIQ Survey shows that about 41 percent of Liberians still use bushes as toilet. Moreover about 23 percent of the households in Liberia still use covered pit latrine. The flush toilet to septic tank was utilized by about 13 percent of the households.

Figure 5.3: Main Type of Toilet Facility

Type of Toilet Facility	Percent
Hanging toilet	3.4
Pan/bucket	0.4
Uncovered pit latrine	5.2
Covered pit latrine with slab	23.0
Ventilated covered pit latrine (VIP)	9.4
Flush toilet to septic tank	12.9
Flush toilet to sewer	4.8
Bush	40.9
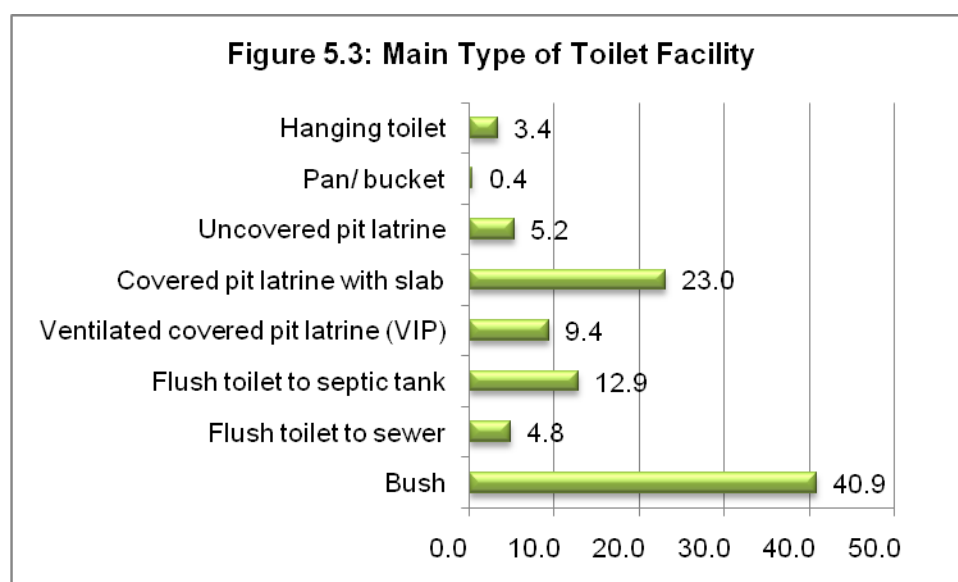
Improved sanitation is considered here as either flush toilet, which leads to sewer or septic tank, or ventilated or covered pit latrine with slab. The data revealed that only 50 percent of all households in Liberia had access to improved sanitation. There was considerable difference between urban and rural areas in terms of their access to improved sanitation. Roughly 64 percent of urban households had access to improved sanitation compared to 39 percent in rural areas.

Improved sanitation was unsurprisingly highest in Greater Monrovia (72.2%) and lowest in the South Eastern B Region (38.3%). Grand Gedeh registered as the county with the highest households with access to improved sanitation, while Rivercess had the least proportion of households having access to improved sanitation.

Table 5.6: Safe Sanitation		
Percentage Distribution of Households by Safe Sanitation		
	N	Improved sanitation
Liberia	727,807	50.1
Rural	396,403	38.5
Urban	331,404	64.0
Greater Monrovia	*202,786*	*72.2*
North Central	*217,162*	*40.0*
Bong	69,737	38.8
Lofa	59,465	33.1
Nimba	87,960	45.6
North Western	*67,405*	*43.0*
Bomi	21,026	59.1
Grand Cape Mount	25,442	29.0
Gharpolu	20,937	43.9
South Central	*131,156*	*40.2*
Grand Bassa	53,896	39.6
Margribi	45,664	43.1
Montserrado	31,597	37.2
South Eastern A	*59,820*	*51.2*
Grand Gedeh	26,753	73.2
Rivercess	15,273	20.3
Sinoe	17,793	44.5
South Eastern B	*49,478*	*38.5*
Grand Kru	9,620	27.3
Maryland	26,978	42.5
River Gee	12,880	38.3

5.2.7 Sources of Fuel for Cooking and Lighting

5.2.7.1 Main Sources of Fuel for Cooking

The proportion of households utilizing wood as a main source of fuel for cooking provides a rough insight into the level of deforestation occurring in a country rich with dense rainforest. Maintaining an ecological balance and reducing the effects of global warming would mean preserving the forest from traditional sources of deforestation, which is using the forest as a source of fuel, felling of trees for subsistence agriculture, etc.

Table 5.6 shows that only two percent of the households in Liberia use non-wood fuel for cooking. Wood fuel was categorized as firewood, charcoal, and crop residue or sawdust. This indicates that about 98 percent of the population still uses wood products as the primary source of fuel for cooking. Urbanites (2.0%) were slightly more likely to use non-wood fuel than rural dwellers (1.7%). Household use of non-wood fuel for cooking shows little disparity among the six regions, since about two percent of the households in all but one region used non-wood fuel for cooking. The exception is the North Western region where only a percent of the households used non-wood fuel for cooking. This might be the case because of the cumulative effective of the percentages of each of the counties in this region. For instance, in Gbarpolu County, half of a percent (0.5%) of the households use non-wood fuel for cooking.

Further analysis shows that a little more than one-half of the households use Firewood for cooking, while about 45 percent use Charcoal. In rural areas, 77 percent of the households use firewood for cooking, followed by 21 percent who use Charcoal. In urban areas, however, majority of the households (72.9%) use Charcoal for cooking.

Excluding Greater Monrovia, the use of firewood for cooking was predominant in the other regions of Liberia. A vast majority (95.4%) of the households in Greater Monrovia use Charcoal for cooking. This indicates that out of 207,201 households in Greater Monrovia, 197,670 households use Charcoal for cooking. If converted to actual population, it shows that close to a million people in Greater Monrovia are using Charcoal as main source of fuel for cooking.

Table 5.7: Percentage Distribution of Households by Non-wood Fuel Use and Main Source of Fuel for Cooking									
	N	Non-wood fuel use	Fire-wood	Char-coal	Kero-sene/oil	Gas	Electri-city	Crop residue/ Sawdust	Animal waste	Palm oil
Liberia	732,071	1.9	53.0	44.8	0.3	0.1	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.4
Rural	395,967	1.7	77.1	21.0	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.6
Urban	336,104	2.0	24.7	72.9	0.5	0.2	1.1	0.4	0.1	0.2
Greater Monrovia	*207,201*	*1.7*	*2.5*	*95.4*	*0.5*	*0.2*	*1.0*	*0.5*	*-*	*-*
North Central	*216,746*	*2.2*	*78.6*	*19.1*	*0.2*	*0.1*	*1.1*	*0.1*	*0.2*	*0.7*
Bong	69,542	2.9	73.4	23.4	-	-	1.3	0.3	0.3	1.3
Lofa	59,244	2.8	83.7	13.5	-	-	1.3	-	0.4	1.1
Nimba	87,960	1.4	79.2	19.4	0.4	0.1	0.8	-	-	-
North Western	*66,930*	*1.3*	*67.2*	*31.2*	*0.4*	*0.3*	*0.6*	*0.3*	*0.0*	*0.0*
Bomi	20,923	1.0	36.6	62.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	-
Grand Cape Mount	25,333	2.3	76.5	20.7	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.4	0.1	-
Gharpolu	20,674	0.5	86.8	12.8	0.3	-	-	-	-	0.1
South Central	*131,871*	*1.7*	*60.8*	*37.2*	*0.2*	*0.1*	*0.9*	*0.2*	*0.1*	*0.4*

Grand Bassa	54,337	2.1	63.6	34.2	0.1	-	1.5	-	-	0.5
Margribi	45,994	1.4	58.4	40.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Montserrado	31,539	1.2	59.5	38.3	0.3	-	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.2
South Eastern A	*59,710*	*2.0*	*76.7*	*20.9*	*0.1*	*0.1*	*1.4*	*0.3*	*-*	*0.4*
Grand Gedeh	26,570	2.6	74.9	22.5	0.3	0.2	2.2	-	-	-
Rivercess	15,273	1.4	96.4	2.2	-	-	0.4	-	-	1.1
Sinoe	17,867	1.7	62.7	34.7	.-	0.2	1.1	1.0	-	0.4
South Eastern B	*49,613*	*1.8*	*84.4*	*13.7*	*0.0*	*0.1*	*0.5*	*0.2*	*0.1*	*1.0*
Grand Kru	9,671	2.1	97.5	0.5	-	-	0.5	-	0.5	1.1
Maryland	27,105	1.3	75.0	23.6	-	-	0.1	0.1	-	1.2
River Gee	12,836	2.6	94.4	2.7	0.2	0.3	1.4	0.3	-	0.7

5.2.7.2 Main Source of Fuel for Lighting

Household heads were also asked about the main sources of fuel for lighting during the conduct of the 2010 CWIQ Survey. The results show that about a large proportion of households in Liberia, i.e. three in ten (32.2%) of all households, use Battery as the main source of fuel for lighting, which amounts to more than 23,000 households. The usage of battery is getting increasingly widespread as more and more people move away from kerosene, candles and palm oil and shift towards the usage of lamps and flashlights that use batteries. However, kerosene is still used by a quarter of the households in Liberia. Other forms of fuel sources for lighting used by a considerable portion of households were palm oil (17.4%), candles (12.1%) and generators (4.8%). Electricity was used by a just three percent of the households in Liberia.

In rural and urban areas, a larger percentage of the households used Battery as the main source of fuel to provide lighting. Nevertheless, the use of Battery in urban areas (34.0%) was slightly higher than in rural areas (30.6%). However in urban areas a significant portion of the households use Kerosene (23.8%) and Candles (16.6%). In rural communities, a considerable fraction of households use Kerosene (27.0%) and Palm oil (25.6%) to provide light for their houses. The use of Battery was fairly common in Greater Monrovia (38.6%) and South Eastern A Region, (38.1%), but more common in the North Western Region (51.1%). It is important to also highlight that about one out of every five households in Greater Monrovia use Candles as a source of lighting. On the other hand, Kerosene or Paraffin was used by a fairly larger portion of the households in North Central Region (27.9%), South Central Region Region 26.2%) and South Eastern B (41.6%) of Liberia.

Table 5.8: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Fuel for Lighting									
	N	Kerosene or Paraffin	Gas	Mains electri-city	Genera-tor	Battery	Candles	Fire-wood	Palm oil	Other
LIBERIA	731,449	25.6	1.4	2.8	4.8	32.2	12.1	2.4	17.4	1.3
Rural	395,425	27.0	0.4	0.8	1.9	30.6	8.3	3.3	25.8	1.6
Urban	336,024	23.8	2.6	5.1	8.1	34.0	16.6	1.3	7.5	0.9
Greater Monrovia	*207,521*	*19.4*	*3.3*	*6.8*	*11.2*	***38.6***	*20.2*	*0.5*	*..*	*0.2*
North Central	*216,992*	***27.9***	*0.8*	*1.7*	*2.0*	*27.3*	*5.0*	*4.3*	*28.2*	*2.8*
Bong	69,784	11.4	1.2	0.5	2.8	28.7	5.1	2.2	43.6	4.6
Lofa	59,369	14.5	0.5	0.3	2.9	25.1	8.2	7.7	37.4	3.3
Nimba	87,839	50.2	0.7	3.6	0.7	27.7	2.7	3.8	9.7	1.0
North Western	*66,818*	*21.1*	*0.7*	*0.3*	*3.2*	***51.1***	*10.7*	*1.3*	*9.0*	*2.7*
Bomi	20,401	20.4	0.7	0.7	4.8	37.2	20.6	1.0	8.8	5.8
Grand Cape Mount	25,411	24.4	0.9	0.1	3.5	62.3	6.6	1.4	0.9	..
Gharpolu	21,006	17.9	0.5	..	1.4	51.0	6.1	1.4	18.9	2.9
South Central	*130,318*	***26.2***	*0.9*	*1.6*	*2.0*	*24.6*	*17.3*	*2.5*	*24.2*	*0.7*
Grand Bassa	52,983	34.7	0.4	1.0	1.2	9.4	18.8	4.8	29.6	..
Margribi	45,836	23.1	1.0	3.2	3.0	27.3	14.8	0.9	26.4	0.2
Montserrado	31,499	16.3	1.7	0.4	1.6	45.9	18.4	1.2	11.7	2.7
South Eastern A	*60,183*	*28.8*	*0.3*	*0.3*	*1.6*	***38.1***	*7.5*	*1.9*	*21.4*	*0.2*
Grand Gedeh	26,770	50.7	..	0.6	3.0	35.9	5.2	0.5	3.7	0.5
Rivercess	15,604	3.2	..	..	..	52.5	2.2	5.2	36.8	..
Sinoe	17,809	18.1	1.0	..	0.9	28.8	15.6	1.0	34.5	..
South Eastern B	*49,617*	***41.6***	*..*	*0.3*	*3.8*	*14.2*	*3.5*	*4.0*	*32.0*	*0.5*
Grand Kru	9,627	5.7	..	0.5	0.5	25.0	5.4	4.1	59.0	..
Maryland	27,233	62.9	..	0.1	5.2	4.9	3.7	2.0	20.4	0.8
River Gee	12,757	23.3	..	0.7	3.3	25.9	1.7	8.2	36.6	0.3

5.3 Access to Social Amenities

5.3.1 Access to Social Amenities within 5km

Access to social amenities also expresses the extent of wellbeing of the individual and the household. Ideally, an individual must exist within a 5km radius of a social amenity to be considered as having easy access.

5.3.1 Access to Safe Drinking Water

In Liberia, households were more likely to have access to safe drinking water than other forms of social amenities. About 54 percent of Liberians had access to safe drinking water within 5 km of the household or less. People who lived in rural areas (59.9%) were most likely to report having access to safe drinking water within 5km than their urban counterparts (45.8%). Ironically, access to safe drinking water was lowest in Greater Monrovia (37.4%) and highest in Gbarpolu County (84.4%).

Since the question on access to safe drinking water only considered people's subjective opinion on what a safe drinking water was, it becomes insufficient to use the perception of respondents to determine the quality of the drinking water. Hence these results must be treated with much caution in rendering generalizations, on the quality of the water consumed. However, the results give a fairer picture about people's access to drinking water.

Percentage Distribution of Population By Access to Supply of Safe Drinking Water, Distance to Nearest Supply of Drinking Water						
	N	Access to water within 5Km	6-14 Km	15-29 Km	30-44 Km	45-59 Km	60+ Km
LIBERIA	3,682,323	53.5	19.6	11.1	5.4	1.7	8.7
Rural	1,994,330	59.9	16.1	10.6	4.2	2.2	6.8
Urban	1,687,992	45.8	23.8	11.7	6.8	1.0	10.8
Greater Monrovia	*1,006,035*	*37.4*	*26.8*	*12.8*	*7.5*	*0.9*	*14.6*
North Central	*1,122,238*	*56.3*	*17.9*	*10.7*	*5.3*	*1.8*	*8.1*
Bong	379,467	62.2	16.0	10.3	2.8	3.2	5.5
Lofa	284,703	65.2	19.1	9.7	2.5	0.2	3.3
Nimba	458,068	45.8	18.8	11.6	9.0	1.5	13.3
North Western	*321,540*	*67.4*	*12.2*	*10.0*	*2.5*	*2.3*	*5.6*
Bomi	105,550	61.7	22.6	10.2	2.2	1.1	2.2
Grand Cape Mount	128,890	60.6	8.8	12.1	4.3	4.7	9.6
Gbarpolu	87,099	84.4	4.6	6.7	..	0.3	4.1
South Central	*648,650*	*61.6*	*17.4*	*8.5*	*3.8*	*1.6*	*7.0*
Grand Bassa	238,185	66.1	22.3	7.9	1.8	0.9	1.0
Margribi	223,860	56.7	11.3	7.9	4.2	3.7	16.2
Montserrado	186,606	61.6	18.6	10.1	6.0	..	3.7
South Eastern A	*310,248*	*70.2*	*15.8*	*9.5*	*2.3*	*1.2*	*1.1*
Grand Gedeh	126,332	67.9	22.0	6.6	2.5	0.6	0.3
Rivercess	77,298	68.4	12.1	9.3	3.0	3.6	3.6
Sinoe	106,619	74.2	11.2	12.9	1.4	0.2	0.1
South Eastern B	*273,611*	*46.4*	*18.4*	*16.7*	*9.4*	*3.9*	*5.1*
Grand Kru	59,727	52.9	20.8	6.7	4.9	0.8	13.8
Maryland	137,281	44.8	16.9	17.6	12.5	6.1	2.0
River Gee	76,603	44.2	19.4	22.8	7.5	2.3	3.8

5.3.2 Access to Education

People were more likely to have access to primary schools (31.2%) than secondary schools (28.8%), although more than 50 percent of the population in Liberia lacked access to any educational facilities within the 5km reach (see Table 5.9). Rural residents had greater chances of having primary and secondary schools within 5km than urban residents. Unlike in the South Eastern A Region where people had closed access to secondary school than primary schools, closed access to primary schools was the most dominant for most of the regions of Liberia. Among the 15 counties, Grand Cape Mount (48.2%) and Gbarpolu (43.7%) Counties had the largest percentage of persons having access to primary schools within 5km. On the other hand, Rivercess County had the largest fraction of person having access to primary school within 5km.

Analysis of the distance to the nearest primary school does not explain the quality of access, the number of persons per each school within close range and the level of school attendance among persons of school going age.

Table 5.9: Access and Distance to Nearest Primary School and Secondary School				
Percentage Distribution of Population By Access and Distance to Nearest Primary School				
	N	Access to primary school within 5Km	N	Access to secondary school within 5Km
Liberia	3,691,298	31.2	3,667,764	28.8
Rural	2,003,103	32.2	1,985,875	29.1
Urban	1,688,194	30.0	1,681,888	28.5
Greater Monrovia	*1,006,035*	*30.6*	*999,242*	*27.7*
North Central	*1,127,878*	*31.4*	*1,119,764*	*28.1*
Bong	378,518	31.3	376,266	35.0
Lofa	284,703	30.0	284,703	18.7
Nimba	464,656	32.4	458,794	28.2
North Western	*322,983*	*44.0*	*320,256*	*23.5*
Bomi	105,550	39.0	105,445	12.0
Grand Cape Mount	128,890	48.2	128,124	18.9
Gbarpolu	88,542	43.7	86,687	44.2
South Central	*652,095*	*27.0*	*650,546*	*32.5*
Grand Bassa	239,345	26.7	237,795	39.5
Margibi	226,145	30.5	226,145	34.0
Montserrado	186,606	22.9	186,606	21.6
South Eastern A	*308,744*	*32.0*	*304,479*	*37.0*
Grand Gedeh	126,332	31.1	126,332	20.1

Rivercess	77,126	41.1	76,582	74.6
Sinoe	105,287	26.5	101,566	29.8
South Eastern B	*273,563*	*26.8*	*273,478*	*24.9*
Grand Kru	59,679	31.5	59,727	10.3
Maryland	137,281	29.6	137,281	20.6
River Gee	76,603	18.0	76,470	44.0

5.3.2 Access to Health Care Services

During the 2010 CWIQ Survey, access to health was assessed through the distance it takes an individual to reach a nearest health facility. Among the various social amenities analyzed, it was realized that fewer people in Liberia had access to health within a close distance, which is within 5 km. About 86 percent of the population took more than 5km to reach a nearest health facility. there was a small gap between urban and rural areas in terms of the population that covered more than 5 km to reach a health facility. While 85 percent of the population living in urban areas took more than 5 km to reach the nearest health facility, about 87 percent of the population in rural areas to covered similar distance to reach the nearest health center. At the national, rural and urban levels of analysis, a proportionally larger number of people covered at least 60 km to reach the nearest facility. Though this analysis relies on people's idea of the distance covered, which may be subjected to recall errors, it is nonetheless significant to indicate that this low access to suggest greater inadequacies in the health infrastructure of Liberia.

Table 5.4: Distance to the Nearest Health Facility
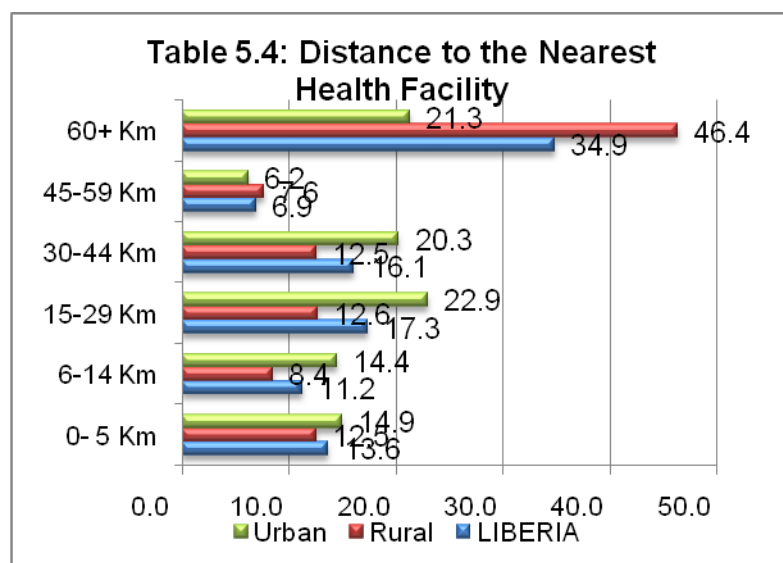
5.3.3 Access to Justice Services

Access to justice services, within the scope of the 2010 CWIQ Survey, was considered as having access to a police station and a court facility. It was observed that people were more likely to have access to a court facility (21.3%) than a police station (17.4%) within a close distance, that 5km.

### 5.3.3.1 Distance to the Nearest Police Station

Access to a police station is crucial in preventing crime and conducting pretrial investigation. Majority of the population in 2007 did not have close access to a police station in 2010. About 1.4 million persons (38.2) took at least 60 km to reach the nearest police station. Only 17 percent of the population (about 600,000 persons) had access to a police within the 5 km reach. Though about 47 percent of the people in rural areas take at least 60 km to reach the nearest police station compared to 28 percent in urban areas, there was a small difference between urban and rural dwellers in terms of access to a police station within 5km. While 18 percent of the population in urban areas covered 5km to reach a nearby police station, about 17 percent of the people in urban areas covered similar distance to reach a the nearest police station. Nearly half of the population in the North Western (48.0%) and North Central (46.5%) Regions of Liberia took at least 60 km to reach the nearest police station. Counties with the least access to a police station were Grand Cape Mount , Gbarpolu and Rivercess where at most three in every ten persons took 60 km and more to reach the nearest police station.

Table 5.10: Access and Distance to Nearest Police station						
Percentage Distribution Population By Access and Distance to Nearest Police station						
	N	Access to Police station within 5Km	6-14 Km	15-29 Km	30-44 Km	45-59 Km	60+ Km
LIBERIA	3,676,491	17.4	8.8	14.7	14.1	6.8	38.2
Rural	1,988,862	18.0	6.3	11.3	10.8	6.4	47.1
Urban	1,687,629	16.7	11.6	18.7	18.0	7.3	27.7
Greater Monrovia	*1,006,035*	*16.9*	*11.2*	*17.2*	*19.7*	*6.3*	***28.6***
North Central	*1,123,190*	*16.4*	*7.5*	*12.3*	*9.7*	*7.6*	***46.5***
Bong	379,467	27.3	7.0	10.7	8.8	7.4	38.8
Lofa	284,703	11.0	8.8	12.7	7.2	6.7	53.6
Nimba	459,019	10.7	7.2	13.4	12.0	8.2	48.5
North Western	*319,066*	*21.3*	*10.7*	*11.8*	*4.6*	*3.6*	***48.0***
Bomi	105,550	21.7	16.2	24.6	11.7	7.2	18.7
Grand Cape Mount	128,890	20.9	9.1	4.1	1.3	2.1	62.5
Gbarpolu	84,626	21.3	6.4	7.6	0.7	1.4	62.6
South Central	*651,702*	*15.7*	*5.2*	*17.1*	*14.4*	*5.7*	***41.9***
Grand Bassa	239,345	19.1	6.5	19.5	11.3	5.7	37.9
Margibi	226,145	16.1	5.9	16.9	18.1	2.6	40.4
Montserrado	186,212	10.8	2.5	14.3	14.0	9.4	49.0
South Eastern A	*303,153*	*20.2*	*11.8*	*11.4*	*17.6*	*8.5*	***30.4***
Grand Gedeh	126,124	10.6	19.8	17.1	26.5	11.2	14.9

Rivercess	76,141	25.8	6.9	2.4	3.4	2.2	59.3
Sinoe	100,888	28.0	5.6	11.1	17.2	10.1	28.0
South Eastern B	*273,345*	*20.0*	*7.4*	*16.6*	*17.8*	*9.9*	***28.4***
Grand Kru	59,727	16.7	9.8	15.2	6.0	2.3	50.0
Maryland	137,281	14.7	8.3	17.4	26.2	15.5	17.9
River Gee	76,337	32.1	4.0	16.2	11.7	5.8	30.3

5.3.3.2 Access to Court Facility

It is not sufficient for one to have access to a police station. Such access must be complemented by access to a court facility within a reasonable reach of the person seeking justice. Largely, about 39 percent of the population in Liberia covered at least 60 km to reach a nearest court facility, as shown in Figure 5.5. Notwithstanding, about a fifth of the population have a court within a 5 km distance. A somewhat higher majority of the persons living in rural areas were observed to cover a longer distance to reach the nearest court structure. This is explained by the fact that about 41 percent of the people in rural areas covered 60 or more kilometers to get to the nearest court outfit, whereas about 35 percent of the population in the urban parts of Liberia takes at least 60 km to access to nearest court facility.

Figure 5.5: Access to Court Facility
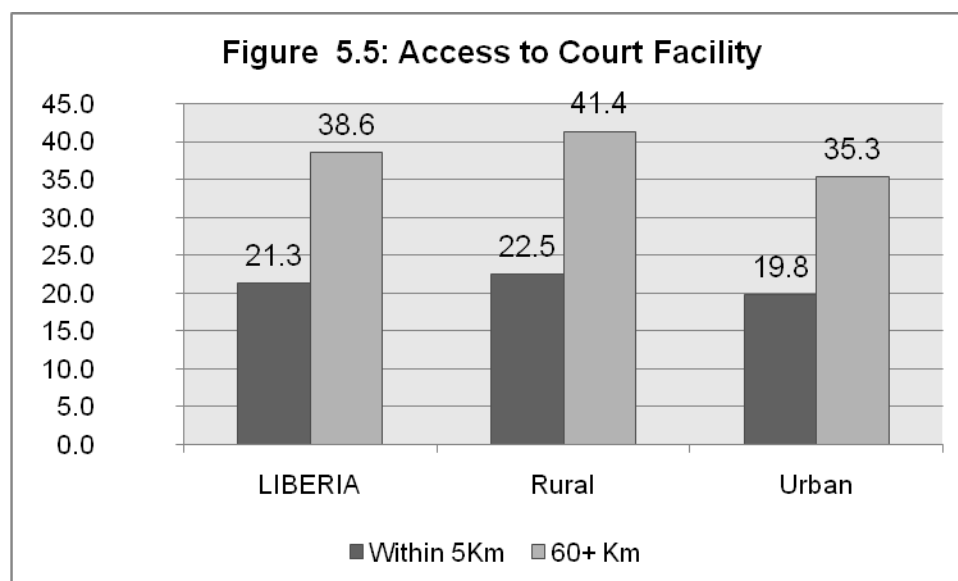
Further investigation revealed that access to court facility in Gbarpolu County, Grand Cape Mount and Rivercess was the lowest in Liberia. About 66 percent of the population in Gbarpolu County took a minimum of 60 km to reach the nearby court. Grand Cape Mount (62.9%) and Rivercess (61.9%) Counties also had a larger percentage of the population taking 60 km or more to reach the nearesrt court facility.

On the contrary, access to court facility was comparatively higher in Grand Bassa, Bong and Rivergee; however, less than 50 percent of the population in these counties take 5 km to reach the nearest court facility. In Grand Bassa, nearly 50 percent (though less than half) of the population have a court facility within 5 km.In Bong County, nearly 40

percent of the population had access to a court facility within 5 km. In Rivergee County access to court within the 5km radius was only 32 percent of the overall population.Generally, the data revealed that access to court within a close proximity was low for most of the population of Liberia.

Percentage Distribution of Population By Access and Distance to Nearest Court							
	N	Access to a Court within 5Km	6-14 Km	15-29 Km	30-44 Km	45-59 Km	60+ Km
LIBERIA	3,667,280	21.3	7.7	12.9	12.5	7.0	38.6
Rural	1,983,803	22.5	7.4	11.6	10.6	6.6	41.4
Urban	1,683,476	19.8	8.0	14.5	14.8	7.6	35.3
Greater Monrovia	*1,000,940*	*20.6*	*6.3*	*10.6*	*13.7*	*6.0*	*42.8*
North Central	*1,122,606*	*22.5*	*7.6*	*13.2*	*9.5*	*6.0*	*41.3*
Bong	379,467	38.8	5.1	11.4	9.5	3.2	31.9
Lofa	284,703	12.9	12.0	13.4	6.5	6.3	49.0
Nimba	458,435	14.9	6.8	14.5	11.4	8.1	44.3
North Western	*319,066*	*18.8*	*9.7*	*13.2*	*6.2*	*3.4*	*48.6*
Bomi	105,550	21.8	13.1	24.0	16.2	7.9	17.0
Grand Cape Mount	128,890	16.3	9.1	8.5	1.6	1.7	62.9
Gharpolu	84,626	18.9	6.4	7.0	0.9	0.5	66.2
South Central	*646,500*	*24.4*	*5.2*	*12.9*	*14.2*	*7.9*	*35.5*
Grand Bassa	234,253	48.9	6.2	12.1	12.3	7.1	13.5
Margribi	226,035	12.3	5.6	12.1	17.2	7.7	45.1
Montserrado	186,212	8.3	3.3	15.0	13.0	9.1	51.3
South Eastern A	*304,557*	*15.3*	*11.7*	*14.8*	*15.0*	*12.9*	*30.3*
Grand Gedeh	125,046	10.2	16.8	19.3	21.9	17.0	14.8
Rivercess	75,755	14.4	9.8	4.5	2.3	7.1	61.9
Sinoe	103,756	22.1	6.9	16.8	16.0	12.2	25.9
South Eastern B	*273,611*	*20.8*	*12.4*	*17.9*	*20.8*	*11.1*	*16.9*
Grand Kru	59,727	29.0	14.2	19.2	8.7	6.8	22.1
Maryland	137,281	11.1	6.9	16.8	32.7	17.7	14.7
River Gee	76,603	31.9	20.9	18.8	8.9	2.7	16.8

## CHAPTER SIX:HOUSEHOLD PERCEPTION OF WELL-BEING

6.1 Introduction

Poverty and human well-being can sometimes be elusive concepts, especially in developing countries where there is a need for the triangulation of different methodologies so as to provide greater insight into the level of poverty. The 2010 CWIQ Survey elicited questions on subjective poverty so as to provide alternative indicators to money-metric poverty in Liberia. Questions were asked about people's perception of their well-being. This chapter seeks to provide analyses for the subjective aspects of human poverty in Liberia.

6.2 Difficulty in Satisfying Needs

6.2.1 Difficulty in Satisfying Food Needs

Food is an essential human need. Expressed difficulty by household heads in satisfying the food needs of the household points to other underlying causes of poverty. In Liberia, a greater percentage of the households sometimes face difficulty in meeting the food needs. The results show that about 45 percent of the households reported satisfying their food needs sometimes. This perception of household heads was consistent for almost all geographic demarcation of the country.

Figure 6.1:Percentage Distribution of Households by Difficulty in Satisfying the Food Needs
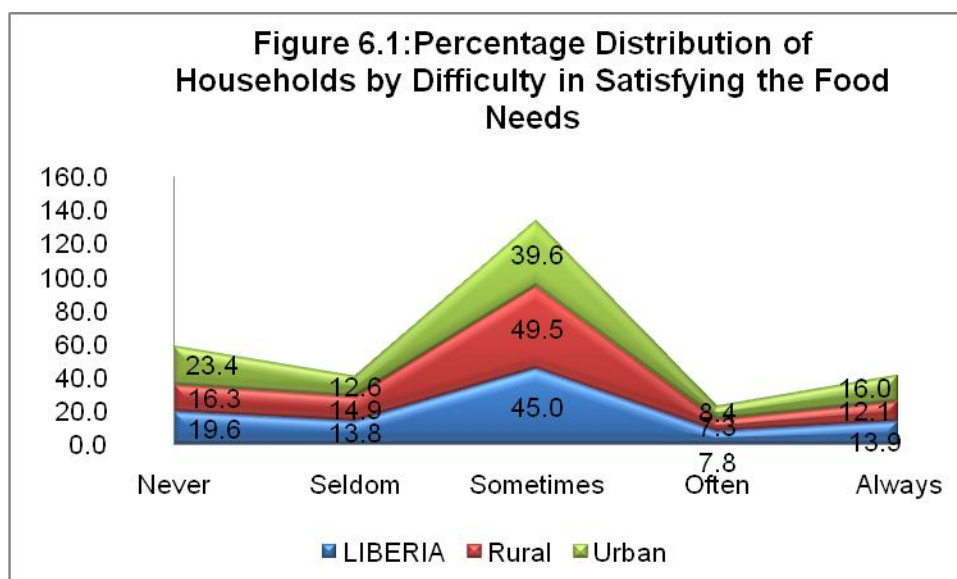
Comparing rural and urban areas, about 50 percent of the rural households sometimes face difficulties in satisfying their food needs compared to about 40 percent in rural areas. On the whole, rural households were less likely to face difficulties than urban households. About 24 percent of the households in urban areas expressed some levels of difficulties in facing food needs, while a corresponding 19 percent of the households in rural areas stated that they either often or always face difficulties in satisfying food needs.

6.2.1 Difficulty in Satisfying the School Fees Needs

The perception of people in satisfying school fees needs provides further explanations to the cost education and the level of school attendance in the country. Households with fewer numbers of children in school will, obviously, face lower difficulties in meeting school fees needs compared to a household with higher numbers of children in school. In Liberia (see Table 6.1), about 38 percent of the households sometimes face difficulties in satisfying school fees needs. However, 31 percent of the households in Liberia reported that they never face any difficulty in satisfying school fees needs.

Table 6.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Difficulty in Satisfying the School Fees Needs						
	N	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
LIBERIA	578,169	30.7	9.8	37.9	7.6	13.9
Rural	286,557	38.3	7.2	36.1	6.6	11.8
Urban	291,612	23.3	12.4	39.7	8.6	16.0
Greater Monrovia	*191,148*	*19.3*	*12.9*	*41.8*	*8.9*	*17.0*
North Central	*163,646*	*40.5*	*6.7*	*31.9*	*6.7*	*14.2*
Bong	59,061	40.8	3.6	28.9	4.9	21.8
Lofa	50,427	49.5	6.0	31.8	7.5	5.2
Nimba	54,158	31.9	10.7	35.3	8.0	14.2
North Western	*47,656*	*43.3*	*11.6*	*33.5*	*4.8*	*6.8*
Bomi	14,883	17.3	10.0	48.9	9.9	13.9
Grand Cape Mount	19,920	57.6	7.0	30.2	2.8	2.4
Gbarpolu	12,853	51.3	20.8	20.7	2.1	5.2
South Central	*95,830*	*22.8*	*10.8*	*45.0*	*10.0*	*11.4*
Grand Bassa	41,079	31.6	8.2	44.3	5.2	10.7
Margiibi	29,336	18.3	13.1	50.5	10.8	7.3
Montserrado	25,415	13.7	12.5	39.7	16.6	17.5
South Eastern A	*42,063*	*50.1*	*6.0*	*31.3*	*2.2*	*10.4*
Grand Gedeh	20,112	54.1	3.6	25.7	2.1	14.5
Rivercess	6,333	35.4	13.3	37.5	6.0	7.8
Sinoe	15,617	50.9	6.0	36.0	0.9	6.3
South Eastern B	*37,826*	*28.7*	*7.5*	*38.9*	*9.0*	*16.0*
Grand Kru	5,938	52.1	5.5	21.1	3.6	17.7

Maryland	25,721	13.6	8.6	49.4	11.0	17.5
River Gee	6,167	69.3	4.9	12.0	5.7	8.1

Households in urban areas were most likely to face difficulties in satisfying school fees needs than households in rural areas. About 40 percent of the households in areas sometimes face difficulties in satisfying school fees needs, while about 36 percent face difficulties to satisfy school fees needs in rural areas. Moreover, rural households (38.3%) were most likely to never face difficulties in meeting school fees needs in comparison to urban households (23.3%). This could be due to the lower school attendance and the lower cost of schools in rural areas compared to urban areas.

A snapshot of the households that were never confronted with difficulties in satisfying school fees needs in the six statistical regions of the country indicated a high of 50 percent in South Eastern A Region to a low of 19 percent in the Greater Monrovia Region. The proportion of households that were never faced with difficulties in satisfying school fees needs in the counties was highest in River Gee County where about 70 percent of the households never faced any difficulties in fulfilling school fees needs. Montserrado (13.7%) and Maryland (13.8%) Counties also displayed the lowest fraction of households that were never confronted with school fees needs.

6.2.2 Difficulty in Satisfying Health Needs

One factor that determines the health of the household is the ability of the household pay the bills of household members that fall sick. When household heads were asked on whether they face difficulties in satisfying health needs, Figure 6.2 confirmed that about four in every ten (41.0%) Liberians are sometimes confronted with difficulties in satisfying health bills needs. Like the overall percentage just discussed, households in urban and rural areas face similar levels of difficulties in satisfying health bills needs. With minor variations, regional and county data also show identical patterns.

Figure 6.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Difficulty in Satisfying the Health Bills Needs
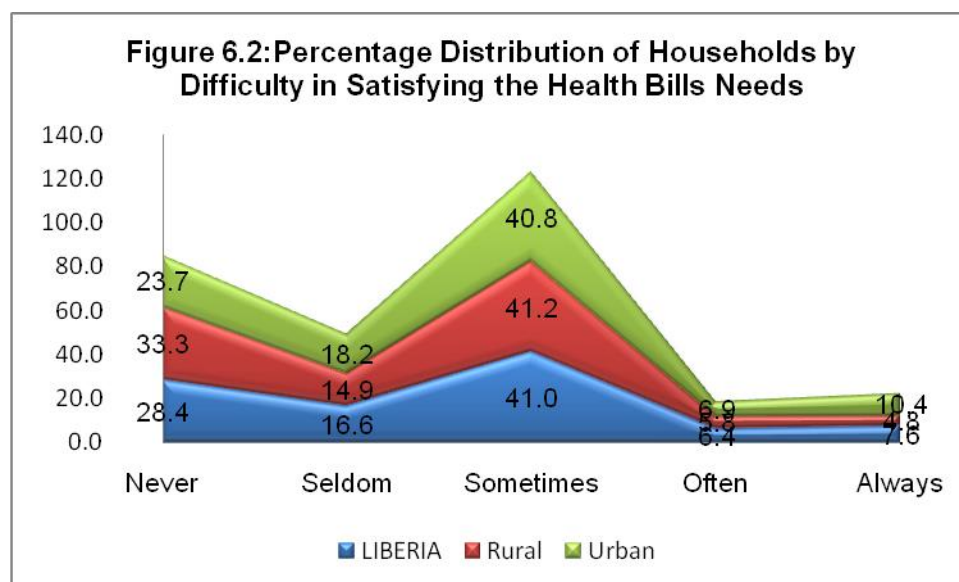
6.3 Perception of the Economic Situation of Community Compared to One Year Ago

Analysis of the household head's perception of the economic situation of the community compared to a year before the survey indicated that about 41 percent of all household heads believed that the community was better off in terms of their economic situation compared to a year before. About 34 percent believed that the economic situation of the community remained the same compared to the previous year. Only 23 percent of the households sampled believed that their economic situation was worse.

Rural dwellers were most likely to perceive a better economic situation of their community when compared urban dwellers. Whereas about 44 percent of the household heads in rural areas believe that the economic situation of their community was better than the previous year, nearly 40 percent of household heads in urban areas believed in similar vein.

Table 6.2: Perception of the Economic Situation of Community Compared to One Year Ago					
Percentage Distribution of Households by Perception of the Economic Situation of Community Compared to One Year Ago					
	N	Worse	Same	Better	Don't know
LIBERIA	733043	23.3	34.3	41.4	0.9
Rural	397154	22.0	34.2	43.7	0.9
Urban	335889	24.8	34.5	38.8	0.9
Greater Monrovia	206512	24.8	39.6	35.5	1.0
North Central	216966	22.4	33.0	45.6	0.1
Bong	69504	26.6	19.8	41.9	-
Lofa	59260	15.4	32.2	57.8	-

Nimba	88202	23.9	44.1	40.4	0.3
North Western	67096	18.9	29.0	50.6	0.8
Bomi	20765	21.4	43.5	40.4	0.8
Grand Cape Mount	25520	17.5	21.2	54.6	1.3
Gharpolu	20811	18.0	24.2	55.9	0.1
South Central	132483	23.7	28.6	39.8	1.2
Grand Bassa	55014	26.3	32.2	44.1	0.9
Margribi	45774	15.9	28.7	38.7	2.5
Montserrado	31695	30.5	22.2	34.0	-
South Eastern A	60283	27.6	44.7	31.6	2.9
Grand Gedeh	26929	40.1	22.9	39.7	0.2
Rivercess	15439	14.1	67.6	30.4	1.7
Sinoe	17915	20.4	57.8	20.5	7.8
South Eastern B	49702	20.4	28.1	52.0	1.1
Grand Kru	9544	16.7	23.1	53.9	3.0
Maryland	27233	19.7	27.2	59.8	-
River Gee	12925	24.8	33.7	34.3	1.8

With the exception of Greater Monrovia and the North Western Regions where most of the households considered their community's economic situation to be same when compared to the previous year, households in all the other regions considered economic situation of the community to be better than the previous year. County level analysis of the perception of the economic situation of the community in comparison to the previous year was not largely different from analysis at regional levels.

6.4 Household's Financial Situation

It becomes insufficient to render analysis of subjective poverty by focusing only on people's perception of the economic situation of the community. It is relevant to conduct analysis of household perception of its financial situation so as to provide deeper insight into the subjective poverty of the household. In Liberia, most of the households, whether at the national (39.6%), rural (42.2%), or urban (36.5%) levels, could only satisfy their basic needs.
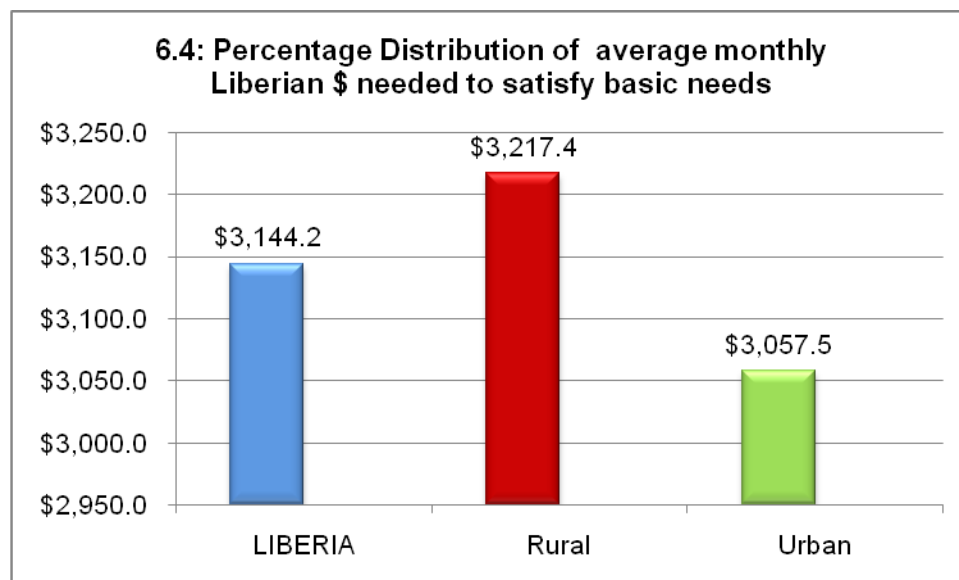
The proportion of households that engaged in savings speaks well of improved financial situation. Though most Liberian households could not save money because their financial situation only allowed them to satisfy basic household needs, still about one in four households save a little money. Household heads in urban areas (32.3%) were most likely to save a little money than rural household heads (19.0%).

Figure 6.3: Percentage Distribution of Household's Financial Situation
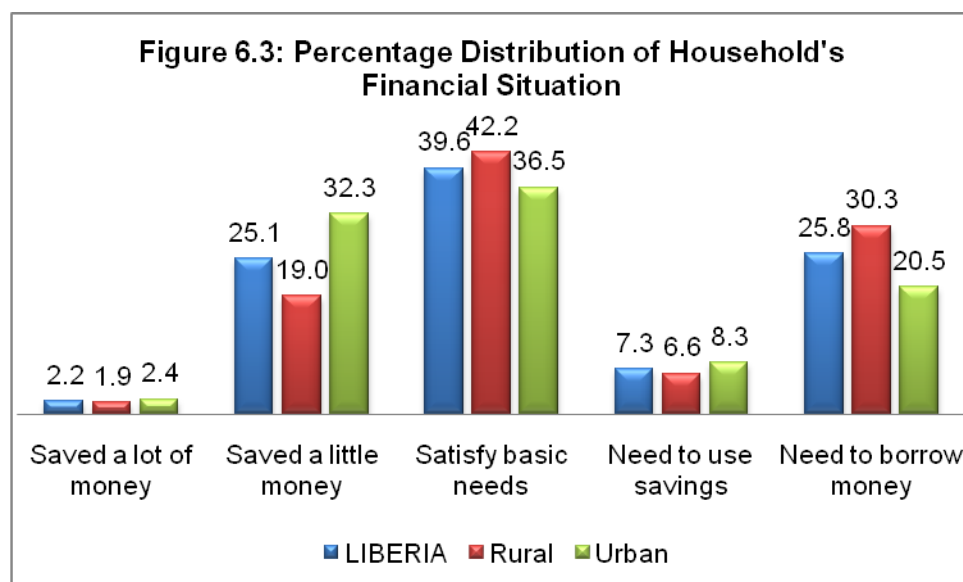
On the contrary to savings, borrowing money speaks of a deteriorating financial situation of the household. Like savings, slightly more than a quarter Liberian households needed to borrow money in order survive. However, rural households (30.3%) were more prone to borrowing money to households in urban areas (20.5%).

6.5 Subjective Poverty Line

The subjective poverty line can be defined as the average monthly Liberian dollars needed to satisfy basic household needs. In Liberia, the subjective poverty line was L$ 3,144.20 or about US$ 44.90. The subjective poverty line in rural areas was about two hundred dollars more than that in urban areas. Thus shows that living condition in rural areas, based on people's perception, has not improved overtime. In fact, as would be discussed in the next chapter, perception of households in rural areas about the average Liberian dollars needed to meet basic needs has taken a reverse and worsening trend since 2010.

6.4: Percentage Distribution of average monthly Liberian $ needed to satisfy basic needs

	LIBERIA	Rural	Urban
Value	$3,144.2	$3,217.4	$3,057.5

6.6 Perception of Government Prioritization of Poverty Reduction

Since the inception of the democratically elected government in 2005, efforts have been made by government to reduce the burdens of poverty in Liberia. The Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (IPRS) that later culminated into a full Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) were all meant to improve the lives of citizens by zeroing–in on the root causes of human misery in Liberia-poverty.

Hence, data was collected through the 2010 CWIQ Survey (as present in Figure 6.5) to measure people's perception on whether the Liberian government was prioritizing poverty reduction as it has been set as guiding mantra of government's policy. The results showed that perception of household heads on whether the government was prioritizing poverty reduction was generally high in Liberia. About 87 percent of households considered the Liberian government to be prioritizing poverty reduction. Urban and rural household heads also expressed greater affirmation of government's prioritization of poverty reduction, even though a slightly higher percentage of the households in urban areas (87.8%) compared to rural areas (86.1%) believed that the government was prioritizing poverty reduction. This shows that most Liberians were well confident in the government's efforts to reduce poverty and that given increased awareness of urban dwellers about government's policy , urban households were more likely to believe that the government was prioritizing poverty reduction than rural households.

Figure 6.5: Perception of Household on whether Government should Prioritize Poverty Reduction
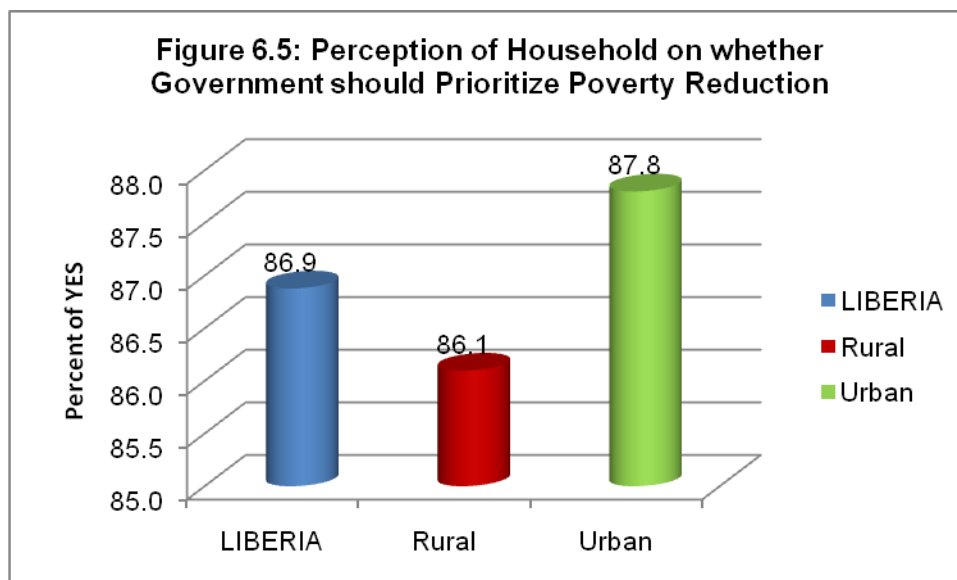
6.7 Most Important Measure Government should take to Improve Standard of Living

In order to improve standard of living in Liberia, several suggestions have been raised by raised by pundits so as to inform government's policy. But with increased emphasis on the bottom-up approach to development intervention in Liberia, it became relevant to solicit the opinion of people from all facets of Liberian society. The results of the 2010 Core Welfare Indicator Survey demonstrated that a slightly more than one out of every two Liberian household heads believed that if the government created employment, the living standard of the household will be improved. Whether in urban or rural Liberia, a larger fraction of the household heads believed that job or employment creation was the most important measure that the Government should take to improve the living standard of the household. Nevertheless, household heads in urban areas (69.7%) were more likely to see creating employment as the most important step to improving living standard than their counterparts in rural areas (42.4%).

Table 6.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by Most important measure Government should take to Improve Household Living Standard

Opinion	LIBERIA	Rural	Urban
Create employment	55.0	42.4	69.7
Improving access to education	13.0	16.3	9.2
Improving access to health education	5.5	7.9	2.6
Pave roads	7.4	11.5	2.6
Improving access to housing	3.4	4.7	1.9
Improve access to credit	2.5	2.0	3.1
Improve access to water and electricity	1.4	2.2	0.6
Improve access to sanitation	0.6	0.9	0.2
Improve access to electricity	0.5	0.4	0.6
Increase salaries	2.6	1.9	3.4
Regulate prices of basic commodities	3.6	3.8	3.4
Fight against corruption	2.9	3.3	2.4
Other	1.5	2.6	0.3

Additionally, creating access to education was considered as the next most important measure Government should prioritize in order to improve the standard of living of the household. About 13 percent of the household heads in Liberia believed that taking steps to improving access to education was the most important measure that Government should take to improve standard of living. The perception of rural household heads (16.3%) contrasted significantly from urban household heads (9.2%) in terms of Government's provision of access to education as the most important deliverable that could improve the standard of living of the household.

CHAPTER SEVEN: LEVELS AND CORRELATES OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL HOUSEHOLD POVERTY IN LIBERIA

56 percent of Liberian households were considered poor or were living in deprivation of household assets and amenities in 2010

There were more poor people in rural (59.4%) than in urban areas (55.1%) in Liberia

7.1 Introduction

Using the multidimensional approach to arrive at a single poverty measure for Liberia, nine dimensions of poverty were considered. The first dimension of poverty in Liberia was food deficiency. Respondents who ate less than three meals the day before the survey were considered deprived of food. Households which spend less than 30 minutes to the nearest health facility as well as those who lack flush toilet were regarded as deficient in health and sanitation. Household which do not have primary school age children currently in school were categorized as poor. Also, households that lacked ownership of radio and mattress, improved source of drinking water and its source of drinking water non-permanent dwelling units were considered as poor. Deficiency in any one of these factors was coded as null or zero while households not deficient in any of these categories were coded as unity or one.

Results in this section were based on earlier computation of results by the author of this report in 2010. The dataset used at that time combined Greater Monrovia and Rural Montserrado, hence there are five regions of analysis in this section instead of six.

7.2 Levels of Household Poverty

Having computed the sum of each of the nine indicators of poverty in Liberia, a binary categorization of people into poor and not was carried out. Households whose sum of their assets and amenities, as well as food consumption, education and health ranged from 0-4 were considered as been "poor", while households having the sum of their poverty indicators ranging from 5-9 were considered "not poor". From this computation, it was revealed that 56 percent of Liberian households were considered poor or were living in deprivation of household assets and amenities in 2010, as well as other basic necessities like food, education and health. On the other hand, only 44 percent of Liberians were considered "not poor" or well-off.

7.3 Geo-spatial Differentials of Poverty

There were more poor people in rural (59.4%) than in urban areas (55.1%) in Liberia. Among the five regions considered in this chapter, multidimensional poverty levels ranged from 67.8% in South Eastern A to 39.9% in South Central regions. Apart from South Central region, poverty levels in the other regions were above the national total. This disproportionate level of poverty between South Central and the other four regions of Liberia obtained as a result of greater concentration of development in Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Margibi Counties compared to the other counties. Montserrado County is home to the national capital, Margibi has the largest rubber concession company in West Africa, while Grand Bassa has the nation's second port of entry.

Table 7.1 : Percentage Distribution of Poverty Level by County and Region			
	Poor	Not poor	Total
Liberia	56.3	43.7	100.0
Urban	55.1	44.9	100.0
Rural	59.4	40.6	100.0
North Western	59.8	40.3	100.0
Bomi	52.4	47.6	100.0
Cape Mount	60.5	39.6	100.0
Gbarpolu	84.6	15.4	100.0
North Central	64.9	35.1	100.0
Bong	70.7	29.3	100.0
Lofa	61.8	38.2	100.0
Nimba	58.2	41.8	100.0
South Central	39.9	60.2	100.0
Margibi	58	42.1	100.0
Montserrado	30.7	69.3	100.0
Bassa	57.1	42.9	100.0
South Eastern A	67.8	32.2	100.0
Grand Gedeh	72.8	27.2	100.0
River Cess	86.4	13.6	100.0
Sinoe	53.6	46.4	100.0
South Eastern B	61.8	38.2	100.0
Grand Kru	80.5	19.5	100.0
Maryland	43.5	56.5	100.0
River Gee	71.4	28.6	100.0

Source: Author's computation using 2010 CWIQ Survey

On the county level, River Cess displayed the highest proportion of people who were considered poor. About 86.4% were deprived of basic household assets and amenities. Despite being closed to Grand Bassa County with relatively

better infrastructure, River Cess proved more remote and lacking the infrastructure for better human livelihood. This is followed by Gbarpolu and Grand Kru Counties, with 84.6% and 80.5% of the households living in poverty. This pattern is expected because among the counties of Liberia, River Cess, Grand Kru and Gbarpolu Counties have low social and economic infrastructures and are deprived of basic social amenities. In contrast, only 30.7% of the households in Montserrado were poor. As anticipated, Montserrado County houses the economic and political capital of Liberia, where the bulk of the people were less deprived of household assets and amenities. Moreover, there exists a huge disparity in terms of development priorities in Liberia, where great concentration has been placed on Monrovia. Apart from Montserrado and Maryland Counties, all the counties in Liberia had more than 50 percent of the households that were poor.

7.4 Wealth Quintile and Poverty in Liberia

In 2010, majority of the households (36.0%) covered during the CWIQ survey was situated within the Middle wealth quintile, nevertheless this was followed by households found within the Second wealth quintile. The least proportion of respondents was found in the Highest wealth quintile (3.4%). In urban areas, majority of the households (35.3%) were located in the Middle wealth quintile, while households found in the Highest wealth quintile comprised the least proportion (4.3%).Rural areas were almost identical to urban areas in terms of the wealth quintile; the bulk of the households in the rural parts of the country were, like in urban centers, were of the Middle wealth quintile (36.8%) and the smallest fraction of households were of the Highest wealth quintile (2.4%).

Regional analysis of wealth quintile almost mirrored the pattern on the national level, where majority of the households sampled were either within the middle or the second wealth quintile, the exception being the South Central region where 35.5% were in the Fourth wealth quintile followed by 28.7% in the Middle wealth quintile. This stratification of people by wealth quintile provides further evidence into the higher wealth status of people living within the South Central region compared to those found in other parts of Liberia. The smallest percentage of respondents on the regional level were found within the highest wealth quintile, though the South Central region had a slightly higher fraction of people in the highest wealth quintile (9.3%).

Though Margibi County is situated in the South Central region which showed a better condition of human welfare than other regions, the highest proportion of people (19.0%) found within the Lowest wealth quintile were found in Margibi; while the least proportion were located in Gbarpolu County (0.0%). On the other hand, people from Gbarpolu County displayed higher chances of being in the second wealth quintile (69.2%), whereas, the smallest percentage of households in the second wealth quintile was found in the Montserrado (15.8%). In terms of the middle wealth quintile, it was observed that most of the respondents within this category of wealth were found in Maryland County (52.9%). Also most of the households interviewed who were found in the fourth (40.8%) and the highest (12.4%) wealth quintile were from Montserrado County.

Percentage Distribution of Wealth Quintile by County and Region						
County	Lowest	Second	Middle	Fourth	Highest	Total
Liberia	12.7	33.1	33.8	18.5	1.9	100.0
Urban	13.2	31.1	34.3	19.3	2.1	100.0
Rural	12.1	35.4	33.2	17.5	1.7	100.0
North Western	10.3	38.5	32.8	18	0.4	100.0
Bomi	5.6	32	38.1	23.8	0.6	100.0
Cape Mount	8.7	33.1	34.9	22.8	0.6	100.0
Gbarpolu	18.4	53.8	23.3	4.5	0	100.0
North Central	17.9	32.9	33.5	14.9	0.8	100.0
Bong	25.2	32.4	33.2	8.5	0.8	100.0
Lofa	15.1	30.3	33.2	20.2	1.2	100.0
Nimba	12.7	36.2	34.1	16.8	0.3	100.0
South Central	11.6	21.9	31.8	29.6	5.1	100.0
Margibi	26	24.7	32.4	15.5	1.4	100.0
Montserrado	5	17.2	33.3	37.7	6.8	100.0
Bassa	15.2	33.3	26.5	20.7	4.2	100.0
South Eastern A	12.9	44.1	31.3	11.5	0.3	100.0

Source: Author's computation using 2010 CWIQ Survey

7.5 Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Poverty in Liberia

7.5.1 Relationship between Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Poverty in Liberia

From the 2010 CWIQ survey it was realized that gender (p=0.703), educational level (p=0.701), and age (p=0.563) of the household head were not significantly associated with one's poverty status in Liberia (see Table A5 in Annex 1). This indicates that there were no substantial statistical differences in the poverty levels of the various categories of gender, education level and age of household's heads. However, region of residence (p=0.000) and religious affiliation of the household head (p=0.000) proved to be significantly associated with poverty status.

The South Central region had proportionally fewer poor people (39.9%) who were household heads. Though the data also showed that there was a very small difference between males and females household heads in terms of their poverty status, majority of those who were multi-dimensionally poor were females (56.6%) in comparison to males (55.9%). Furthermore, the bulk of the household heads with secondary education were poor (57.6%). However, the survey data showed that about 54 percent of the household heads who have completed tertiary were poor. Paradoxically, household heads with no education had the least proportion of people who were considered multi-dimensionally poor. Additionally, close to 80 percent of the household heads who were poor were either adherents of

traditional religion or had no religion. The study shows that the least percentage of household heads who were regarded as being poor were Muslims (43.9%).

The bivariate relationship between age of household head and poverty status was also analyzed. For analytical purposes, the minimum age for a household head was taken as age 10. It is regarded that in the typical Liberian setting, it would be most abnormal for household heads to be less than age 10. Table A4 shows that proportionally, the percentage of the poor among household heads ranged from 60.4% for those who were aged 30-39 to 55.7% for household heads aged 20-29. This further affirms the previous assertion that the age of the head of household is not significantly associated with their poverty status.

Table A3: Association between Socio-demographic characteristics and Poverty Status			
	Not poor	Poor	
Variable	(%)	(%)	p-value
Region			
Northwestern	40.3	59.8	
North Central	35.1	64.9	
South Central	60.2	39.9	0.000
South Eastern A	32.2	67.8	
South Eastern B	38.2	61.8	
Sex			
Male	55.9	44.1	
Female	56.6	43.5	0.703
Educational Level			
No education	47	53	
Primary	43.4	56.7	0.701
Secondary	42.4	57.6	
Tertiary	46	54.1	
Religious Affiliation			
Christian	40.6	59.4	
Muslim	56.1	43.9	
Traditional African Religion	21.7	78.3	0.000
Other Religion	0	100	
No Religion	35.8	64.2	
Age			
10-19	44.2	55.8	
20-29	44.3	55.7	
30-39	39.6	60.4	0.563
40-49	42.4	57.6	
50+	42.6	57.4	

7.6 Socio-demographic Determinants of Poverty in Liberia

The fitted logistic regression model was used in Table A3 of Appendix 1 showing the log odds of the interaction between the dependent variable poverty and the selected socio-demographic characteristics, while controlling for other variables. The overall logistic regression model predicting the effects of selected socio-demographic characteristics on household poverty in Liberia is highly significant (p=0.000) at the 95% confidence limit. However, looking at the individual p-values of the categories, it is observed that the dummy variables of the all categories were not statistically significantly in predicting the effect of household poverty in Liberia, apart from being a resident of South Central region. This outlook of the multivariate statistics table on the effects of socio-demographic characteristics on poverty in Liberia follows similar pattern like the bivariate statistics discussed above.

Table A3 in Appendix shows that households heads who were from North Western (p=0.745) region and the South Central region (p=0.000) were 0.9 and 0.5 times less likely to be poor, respectively, compared to being a household head from the South Eastern B region. On the other hand, being a head of household from the North Central (p=0.281) and South Eastern A (p=0.104) region increases the likelihood of being poor by 1.2 and 1.4 times, respectively. Among these five regions, only the independent dummy variable corresponding to South Central region had significant effect on household poverty.

Despite there more poor women household heads (57.1%) than male household heads, tt was observed from Table A3 that being a female decreases the probability of being poor than being a male in Liberia (OR=0.945,p=0. 0.631). In similar vein, people who had completed primary (OR=1.272,p=0.383), secondary (OR=1.344, p=0.309) and tertiary education (OR=1.176,p=0.719) had increased probability of being poor. This result is suspect and could occur as a result of data artifact, since the opposite is more theoretically true; i.e. poverty status is likely to decrease as education level increases. Nevertheless, the results are not statistically significant, meaning could not be replicated on other studies with identical outcomes.

Furthermore, household heads who were Christians (OR=0.793, p=0.527) were about 0.7 times less likely to be poor than those who were either atheist or from other religions. Also household heads were Muslims (OR=0.491, p=0.062) had 0.5 times less chances of being poor than those who were of other religions or had no religion. Similarly, household heads who practiced African Traditional Religion were 0.5 times more likely (OR=0.513, p=0.500) to be poor than those of the reference categories.

Table A6: Logistic Regression Model of the Effects of Socio-demographic characteristics on Poverty Status		
Variable	Odds Ratio	p-value
Region		
Northwestern	0.941	0.745
North Central	1.236	0.281
South Central	0.501	0.000
South Eastern A	1.437	0.104
South Eastern B	1.000	
Sex		
Male	1.000	
Female	0.945	0.631
Educational Level		
No education	1.000	
Primary	1.272	0.383
Secondary	1.344	0.309
Tertiary	1.176	0.719
Religious Affiliation		
Christian	0.793	0.527
Muslim	0.491	0.062
Traditional African Religion	0.513	0.500
Other Religion	1.000	
No Religion	1.000	
Age		
10-19	0.831	0.440
20-29	0.798	0.356
30-39	0.918	0.738
40-49	0.913	0.736
50+	1.000	
Reference category. Overall p-value of the model is 0.000		

Using the age group 50-59 as the reference category, it was observed that respondents who were of the other age cohorts had lower chances of being poor than those aged 50 years and above. This shows that households whose heads were 50 years and older were more vulnerable to poverty than those headed by people of lower age categories. This is because households with persons who are 50 years and over are likely to be retired or nearing retirement.

CHAPTER EIGHT: TRENDS IN HUMAN WELFARE FROM 2007 TO 2010
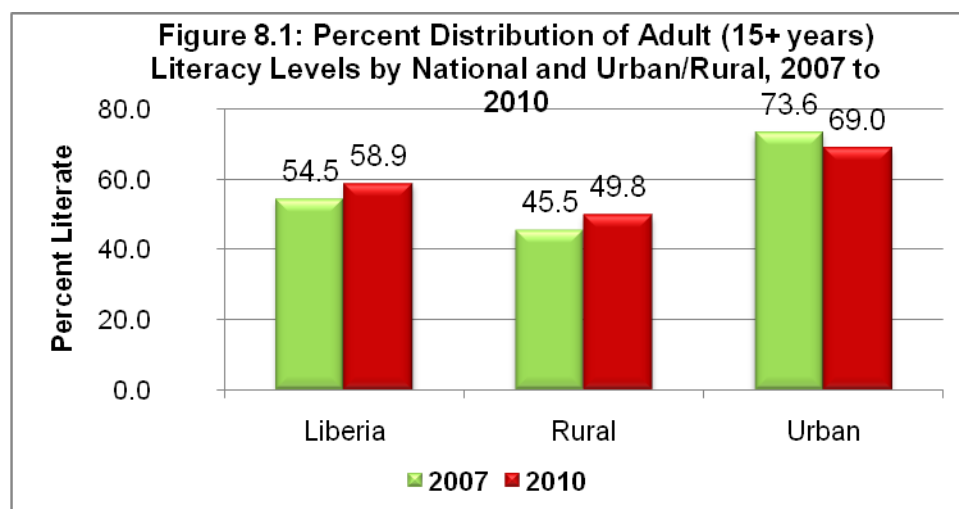
8.1 Introduction

Technically there exist data comparability issues between the 2007 and the 2010 CWIQ Surveys. The 2007 CWIQ Survey used an updated version of the 1984 sampling frame; while the 2010 CWIQ Survey was based on the sampling frame adopted from the 2008 Population and Housing Census in Liberia. Moreover the 2007 CWIQ Survey included an income and consumption module which the 2010 CWIQ Survey was deprived of. Despite these differences in the methodologies, it becomes necessary to construct a rough comparison between the two surveys so provide a picture of plausible trends in human welfare in Liberia. Thus, this chapter seeks to highlight comparisons between the two surveys by selecting key variables for analysis.

8.2 Trends in Literacy and School Attendance

8.2.1 Adult Literacy Trends from 2007-2010

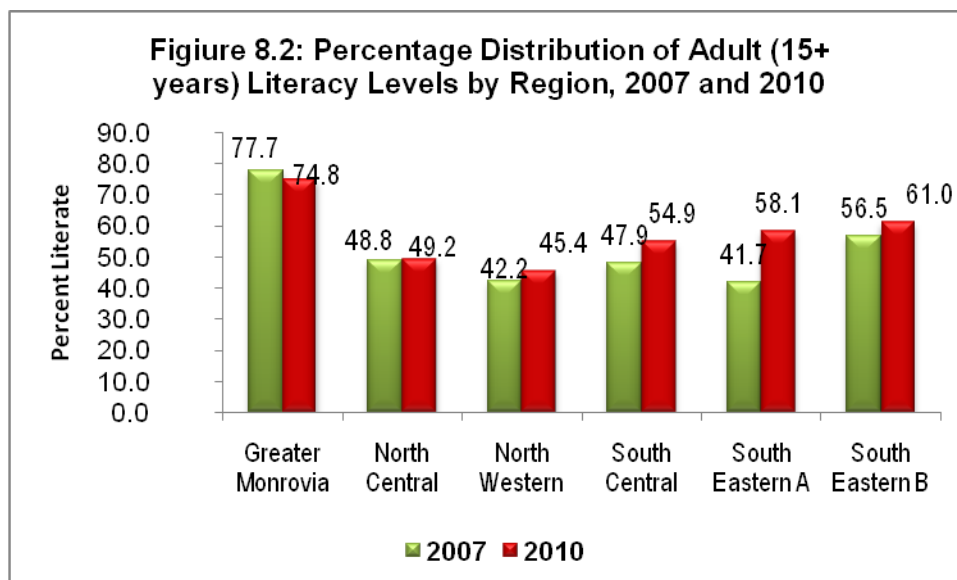#### 8.2.1.1 Adult Literacy by National, Rural/Urban

Since 2007, there has been a 4 percent increment in the adult literacy rate in Liberia. Figure 8.1 shows that adult literacy increased slightly from 55 percent 2007 to 59 percent in 2007. Despite adult literacy in was lower in rural areas compared urban centers, it was observed from Figure 8.1 that the increasing trend in adult literacy also continue in rural Liberia, where adult literacy had a slight rise from 46 percent in 2007 to 50 percent in 2010. In urban centers where it is expected that there would be greater improvements, the data indicated that there was a slight fall in adult literacy from 74 percent to 69 percent during the three years period.

Figure 8.1: Percent Distribution of Adult (15+ years) Literacy Levels by National and Urban/Rural, 2007 to 2010

This falling trend in urban literacy levels could be as a result of lower literacy levels among new entrants into the age category 15 years and older. In other words, literacy levels among children who were 12 to 14 years in 2007 could have been significantly lower. Hence by 2010 each member of this category would be at least 15 years, thereby affecting the overall adult literacy rate. Another factor that could be responsible for this fall in the adult literacy rate is age misstatement by persons aged 12-17 years either in 2007 or in 2010. Heaping of ages of persons below 15 years could increase the urban literacy levels in 2007; while on the opposite, underestimating ages of persons 15-17 years in 2010 by considering them to be younger than 15 years could lead to reductions in the urban literacy rates. However, reduction in program intervention and diversion of policy focus to rural areas could also be responsible for this slight fall.
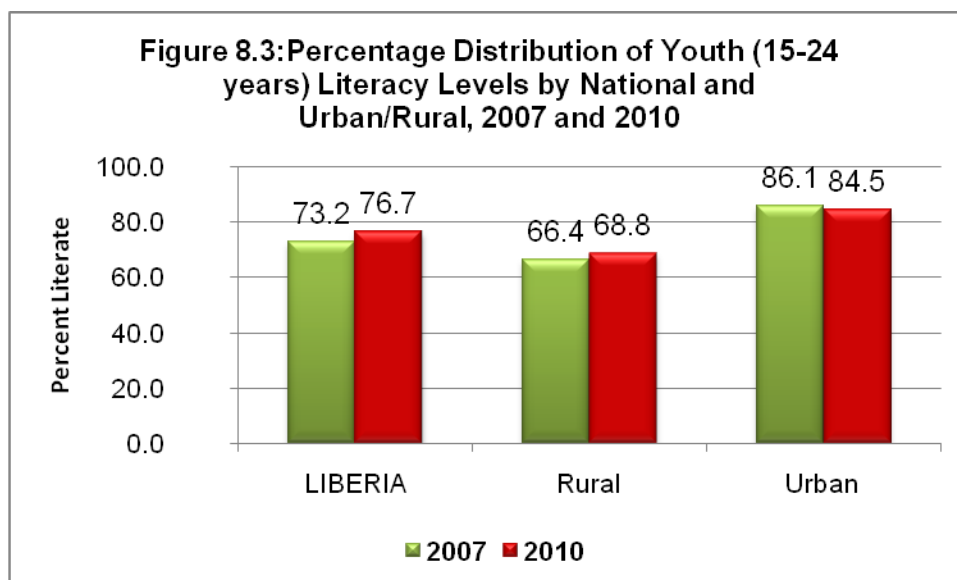
8.2.1.2 Adult Literacy by Region

Since Greater Monrovia is a typical urban region in Liberia, it comes not as a surprise to observe reductions in the literacy rates from 78 percent in 2007 to 75 percent in 2010. However, all other regions were either static or experienced some increments in adult literacy rates. There was no significant change in adult literacy in the North Central Region, as adult literacy remains at 49 percent from 2007 to 2010. In the North Central there was a slight improvement from 42 percent to 45 percent during periods of analysis. The South Eastern A Region underwent the greatest change during the three-year period. There was a 16 percent increase in Adult literacy from 2007 to 2010.

Figiure 8.2: Percentage Distribution of Adult (15+ years) Literacy Levels by Region, 2007 and 2010

Greater Monrovia: 2007 = 77.7, 2010 = 74.8
North Central: 2007 = 48.8, 2010 = 49.2
North Western: 2007 = 42.2, 2010 = 45.4
South Central: 2007 = 47.9, 2010 = 54.9
South Eastern A: 2007 = 41.7, 2010 = 58.1
South Eastern B: 2007 = 56.5, 2010 = 61.0

Percent Literate (y-axis: 0.0 to 90.0)

■ 2007 ■ 2010

8.2.2 Trends in Literacy Levels among Youth Aged 15-24 years from 2007-2010

Using the universal definition of youths and adolescents in Liberia, that is persons aged 15 to 24 years, to arrive at analyses of the trends of literacy from 2007 to 2010, it became apparent that there were minor increments in literacy from 2007 to 2010 among persons of 15 to 24 age cohort. Notwithstanding, it was observed from Figure 7.3 that literacy rates were fairly higher among youths aged 15-24 years compared to the overall population 15 years and above, There was also a slight rise in youth literacy levels in rural areas from 2007 (66.4%) to 2010 (68.8%). In line with the overall trend of adult literacy, literacy among youths (15-24 years) in the urban parts of Liberia show a slight fall from 86 percent in 2007 to 85 percent in 2010.

Figure 8.3: Percentage Distribution of Youth (15-24 years) Literacy Levels by National and Urban/Rural, 2007 and 2010

LIBERIA: 2007 = 73.2, 2010 = 76.7
Rural: 2007 = 66.4, 2010 = 68.8
Urban: 2007 = 86.1, 2010 = 84.5

Percent Literate (y-axis: 0.0 to 100.0)

■ 2007 ■ 2010

82.3 Trends in Net Enrollment Rates from 2007-2010

8.2.3.1 Trends in Primary Net Enrollment Rates

From 2007 to 2010, there was a downward trend in the overall number of children who were of the official primary school going age (i.e. 6-11 years) who were in primary school. The primary net enrollment rate of 37 percent in 2007 fell to 32 percent in 2010. In 2007 male and female primary net enrollment rates were almost equaled at 37 percent respectively. In 2010 where there was a drop in primary net enrollment rate among both male and female children of primary school age, male children of the official primary school age were almost two times more prone to be in primary school than female children. From 2007 to 2010, children of the official primary school age had higher tendencies of been in school in urban areas than their counterparts dwelling in rural areas.

Table 8.1: Net Enrolment Rates by Type of School and Sex, 2007 and 2010						
	Primary					
	2007			**2010**		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
LIBERIA	37.2	*37.4*	37.0	31.6	33.3	17.4
Rural	32.7	33.1	32.3	26.5	27.2	10.7
Urban	47.5	48.0	47.1	38.9	40.3	24.1
Greater Monrovia	49.9	50.3	49.6	47.9	49.2	29.3
North Central	*30.7*	*32.0*	*29.1*	*26.1*	*26.7*	*11.9*
Bong	50.3	53.4	47.0	15.0	19.0	9.2
Lofa	8.5	10.4	6.2	41.9	42.7	12.5
Nimba	32.5	33.0	31.4	26.3	24.6	13.5
North Western	*48.8*	*45.2*	*51.8*	*35.1*	*34.5*	*13.5*
Bomi	24.9	24.1	25.8	40.9	48.5	26.3
Grand Cape Mount	50.2	39.7	63.3	38.1	37.6	4.6
Gharpolu	44.0	39.7	49.3	24.3	11.3	7.4
South Central	*26.0*	*30.1*	*21.3*	*23.1*	*23.7*	*12.2*
Grand Bassa	23.0	25.5	19.3	11.0	19.5	5.7
Margribi	45.4	50.3	40.6	27.2	23.3	12.4
Montserrado	29.7	31.1	28.2	35.0	28.6	19.9
South Eastern A	*34.0*	*32.4*	*35.8*	*22.5*	*21.5*	*10.8*
Grand Gedeh	51.4	51.8	51.1	30.5	32.7	12.4
Rivercess	37.4	32.9	42.1	12.6	9.8	2.6
Sinoe	24.4	29.3	18.1	22.6	18.0	12.6
South Eastern B	*45.7*	*44.9*	*46.5*	*34.4*	*37.5*	*12.3*
Grand Kru	42.0	40.4	43.3	22.7	20.7	5.9
Maryland	33.6	44.5	19.0	45.3	51.1	16.0
River Gee	53.0	53.8	52.2	25.2	27.1	9.5

At the regional and county levels, there appeared to be greater inconsistencies in the data as the gap in net enrollment rates fell considerably; thus raising further questions on the comparability and the quality of the data at lower levels of analysis. It is relevant to indicate that data quality and comparability issues usually become more pronounced at lower and smaller geographic units of analysis.

8.2.3.2 Trends in Overall Net Enrollment Rates

Overall Net Enrollment Rate refers to persons of primary, second and tertiary school going ages, that from 6 to 24 years who are currently enrolled in school. Overall net enrollment rate was lower than the net primary enrollment rate. However, there was a slight reduction in the overall net enrollment rates from 2007 (20.0%) to 2010 (19.2%). In 2007 overall net enrollment rate for males (20.9%) was a little higher than for females (19.0%). In 2010, overall net enrollment rate for males and females was level at 19 percent respectively. The overall net enrollment rate areas was 1.6 times higher in urban areas than in rural areas in both 2007 and 2010. Despite reduction in the overall net enrollment rates, the results suggest that females seem to catch-up with their males during the three years period both in rural and urban areas of the country.

Table 8.2: Overall Net Enrolment Rates by Type of School and Sex, 2007 and 2010						
	Overall					
	2007			2010		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
LIBERIA	20.0	20.9	19.0	19.2	19.1	19.2
Rural	16.5	17.6	15.3	14.7	15.0	14.4
Urban	27.2	28.5	26.1	24.1	24.0	24.1

8.3 Trends in Health Services

8.3.1 Distribution of Population Consulting a Health Practitioner

During the inter-survey period, the overall percentage of the population that consulted a health practitioner whether they were sick or not drop from 40 percent to 34 percent. This suggests that the proportion of persons taking preventive and proactive steps in catering to their health has falling from 2007 to 2010. Between urban and rural areas, there was a reversal in the trend of persons consulting a health practitioner even when they are not sick. Table 7.3 displayed that in 2007 rural dwellers (43.1%) were more likely to consult a health practitioner whether they were sick or not than persons dwelling in urban Liberia (34.2%). But in 2010, the data implied that urbanites (36.6%) showed higher tendencies of consulting a health practitioner when sick than rural people (32.0 %).   .

While Greater Monrovia and the North Western Regions demonstrated increases in the proportion of persons consulting a health practitioner they were sick or not, all other regions experienced decline the percentage of persons

consulting health workers irrespective of being sick or not. More so, five of the fifteen counties in Liberia showed increments in the proportion of persons consulting a health practitioner whether they were sick or not. Those counties were Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Rivercess and River Gee.

Table 8.3: Percentage Distribution of Population Who Consulted a Health Practitioner (Use) by Sex, 2007 and 2010							
	2007				**2010**			
	Sick or not sick		Sick only		Sick or not sick		Sick only	
	N	Consulted	N	Use	N	Consulted	N	Use
LIBERIA	2,732,605	40.4	1,162,638	91.6	3,696,115	34.1	1,256,160	89.6
Rural	1,897,900	43.1	863,164	91.6	2,005,968	32.0	667,292	89.5
Urban	834,705	34.2	299,474	91.6	1,690,147	36.6	588,868	89.7
Greater Monrovia	*594,616*	*33.9*	*213,975*	*90.7*	*1,006,035*	*42.2*	*381,313*	*91.7*
North Central	*977,654*	*46.4*	*469,549*	*93.9*	*1,129,069*	*33.1*	*385,844*	*89.7*
Bong	271,552	56.7	156,193	96.0	379,467	43.9	169,703	92.9
Lofa	211,526	45.2	101,055	91.4	284,703	24.2	73,568	83.6
Nimba	44,548	45.3	22,667	88.2	464,898	29.7	142,573	89.1
North Western	*276,705*	*31.8*	*93,235*	*91.2*	*323,382*	*41.6*	*137,842*	*92.7*
Bomi	245,216	43.4	112,405	93.9	105,550	26.9	28,740	91.2
Grand Cape Mount	77,634	37.5	30,579	90.2	129,290	46.0	61,322	93.2
Gbarpolu	57,782	38.3	25,624	85.0	88,542	52.7	47,780	93.0
South Central	*449,409*	*41.2*	*192,358*	*91.8*	*653,176*	*22.5*	*157,330*	*83.6*
Grand Bassa	460,886	41.9	200,952	92.3	239,345	27.9	69,601	87.2
Margibi	149,421	34.5	53,421	92.3	226,145	13.1	33,214	79.9
Montserrado	96,717	31.6	31,176	94.1	187,686	27.0	54,516	81.2
South Eastern A	*239,736*	*37.9*	*101,493*	*86.4*	*310,374*	*32.1*	*105,796*	*90.1*
Grand Gedeh	140,672	24.1	35,874	92.6	126,332	24.5	33,639	87.1
Rivercess	98,472	40.7	47,650	80.6	77,298	55.6	44,197	94.7
Sinoe	40,208	55.2	23,902	88.4	106,744	23.9	27,961	86.6
South Eastern B	*194,484*	*43.5*	*92,026*	*87.8*	*274,079*	*30.1*	*88,034*	*85.4*
Grand Kru	58,399	42.9	26,782	90.6	60,018	37.2	22,690	83.7
Maryland	88,461	42.9	37,882	92.3	137,281	20.0	28,229	89.3
River Gee	96,495	41.7	42,500	89.2	76,780	42.6	37,116	83.4

Obviously there exists a greater tendency for people to consult a health practitioner when sick. In Liberia, there was a two percent drop in the percentage of persons consulting health practitioners when sick from 2007 (91.6%) o 2010 (89.6%). Though there was slight drop in the percentage of persons consulting health workers when they were sick from 2007 to 2010, the data showed that during both survey periods, urban and rural dwellers showed identical patterns.

Even though the Greater Monrovia Region, North Western and the South Eastern Regions experienced rise in the proportion of persons consulting health workers when sick, River Cess County showed the highest percent increase from 2007 to 2010, that is about 14 percent. In terms of decline, however, Montserrado and Margibi Counties showed 13 and 12 percent decline respectively.

8.3.2 Satisfaction with Medical Services

Overall satisfaction with medical services fell from 2007 (59.4%) to 2010 (46.7%) as seen in Figure 7.4. In line with this trend, satisfaction with medical services also dropped in both rural and urban areas of Liberia. However, satisfaction with health services in urban areas was noticeably higher in urban areas than in rural areas of the country. The data also revealed that only Lofa and Bomi showed indications of increment in the proportion of persons satisfied with the medical services from 2007 to 2010. In Lofa County, satisfaction with medical services rose from 49 percent in 2007 to 57 percent in 2010; also in Bomi County, satisfaction with medical services increased from 64 to 66 percent from 2007 to 2010.


Figure 8.4: Satisfaction with Medical Services, 2007 and 2010
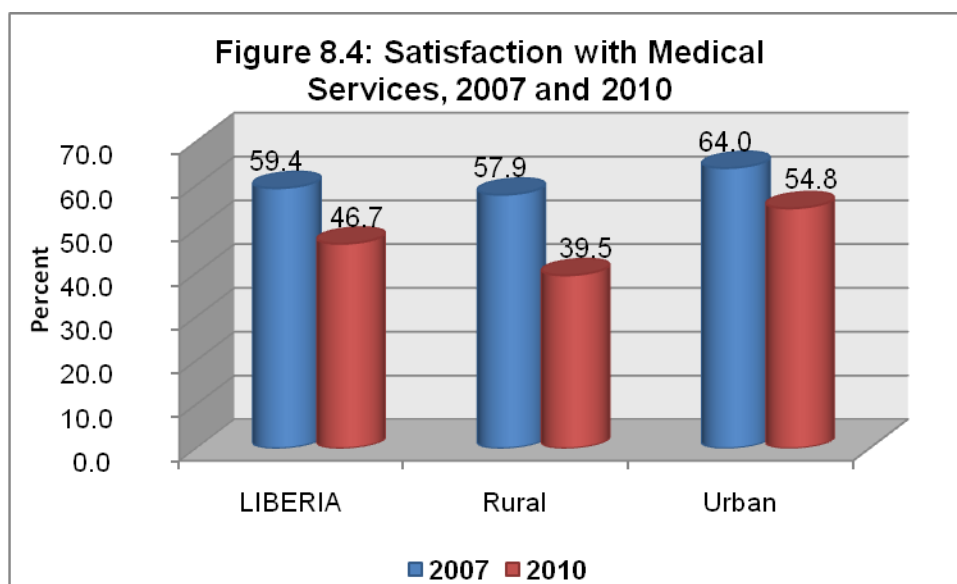
## 8.4 Trends in Assets and Amenities

8.4.1 Housing Tenure from 2007-2010

Housing tenure was categorized into own dwelling, rented dwelling and others (uses without paying rent or nomadic or temporary dwelling). Figure 7.4 revealed that though most Liberians own their own dwelling, the percentage of households owning their own dwelling declined from 67 to 60 between 2007 and 2010. In both 2007 and 2010, it was observed that rural households were more likely to own their dwelling than urban households. While there was a falling trend in the proportion of households owning dwelling, the proportion of households living in rented facilities

rose from 20 percent in 2007 to 23 percent in 2010. Urban and rural households showed opposite trends in the percentage living in rented dwelling. To illustrate (se Figure 7.4), rural households living in rented facilities increased from seven percent in 2007 to 12 percent in 2010; while urban households that live in rented facilities fell from 48 percent to 37 percent between 2007 and 2010.

Figure 8.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Housing Tenure, 2007 and 2010
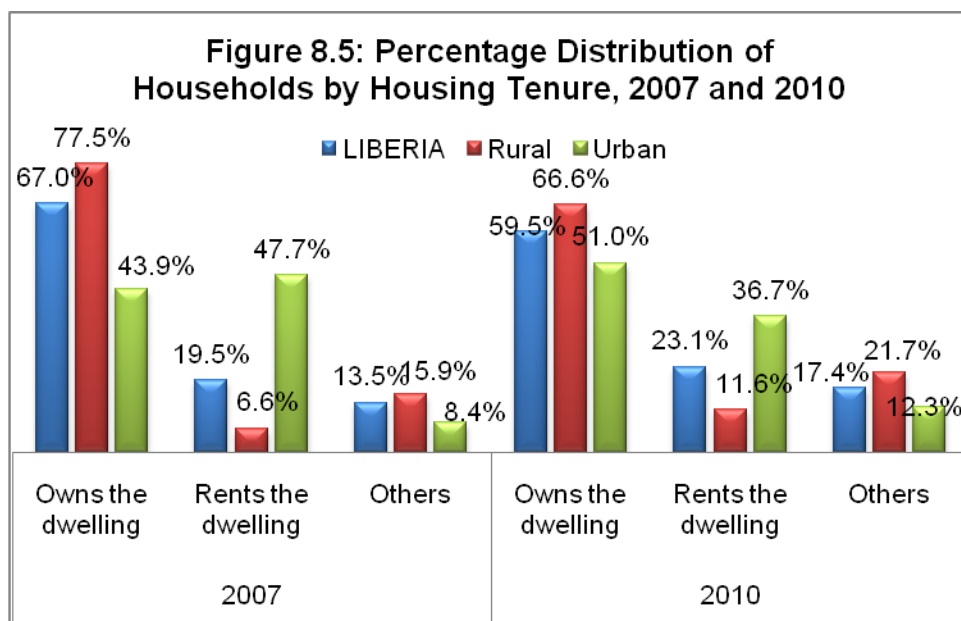
During the three years period, all other regions experienced decline in the percentage of households owning dwelling except Greater Monrovia, where from 2007 to 2010 there a slight increase in the percentage of households living in houses owned by the household head. From 2007 to 2010, ownership of dwelling increases from 41 to 42 percent.

Figure 8.6: Percentage Distribution of Households Owning Dwelling by Region , 2007 and 2010
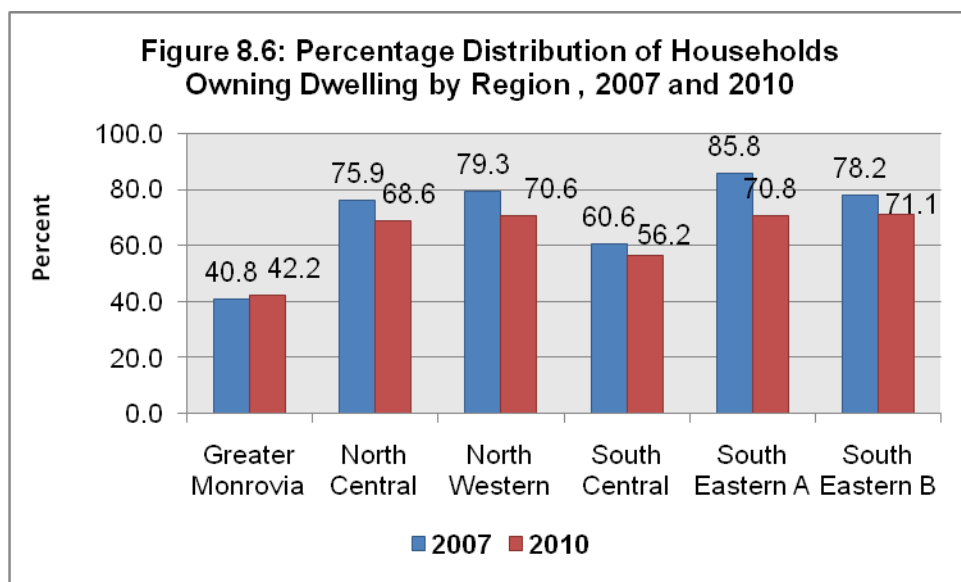
8.4.2 Secured Tenancy

The percentage of households with land deed, leasehold, freehold, tenancy agreement and receipt for payment to prove ownership of their dwelling had increased from 75 percent to 83 percent over the three years period. In other words, households with secured tenancy had increased from 2007 to 2010. Households with secured tenancy in rural areas experienced a rise of 2 percent from 2007 to 2010; while there was a 5 percent drop in the percentage of households with secured tenancy in urban areas from 2007 to 2010. Since Greater Monrovia is entirely an urban region, similar falling trend in secured tenancy in urban areas was also realized.

Figure 8.7:Percentage Distribution of Households by Type of Documents to Prove Occupancy, 2007 and 2010
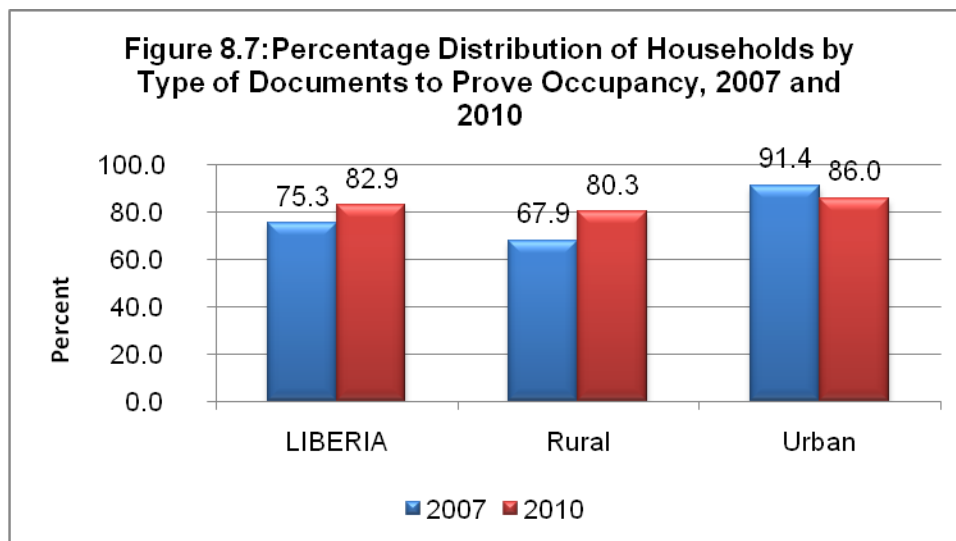
8.4.3 Trend in Improved Source of Drinking Water

Generally, there was a nine percent increment in the proportion of household with improved source of drinking water, as Figure 7.8 indicates. From 2007 to 2010, households with improved source of water rose from 52 percent to 61 percent. The proportion of household in rural areas with improved source of water remained unchanged at 49 percent. There was a significant leap in the proportion of household having access to improved sources of water from 2007 to 2010, Urban households with improved sources of water was 57 percent in 2007 and rose to 76 percent in 2010. This rise in the number of households with improved source of drinking water in urban centers explains the extent of intervention in the provision of safe drinking in urban parts of the country, focusing least on rural areas.

Figure 8.8: Percentage Distribution of Households by Improved Water Source, 2007 and 2010
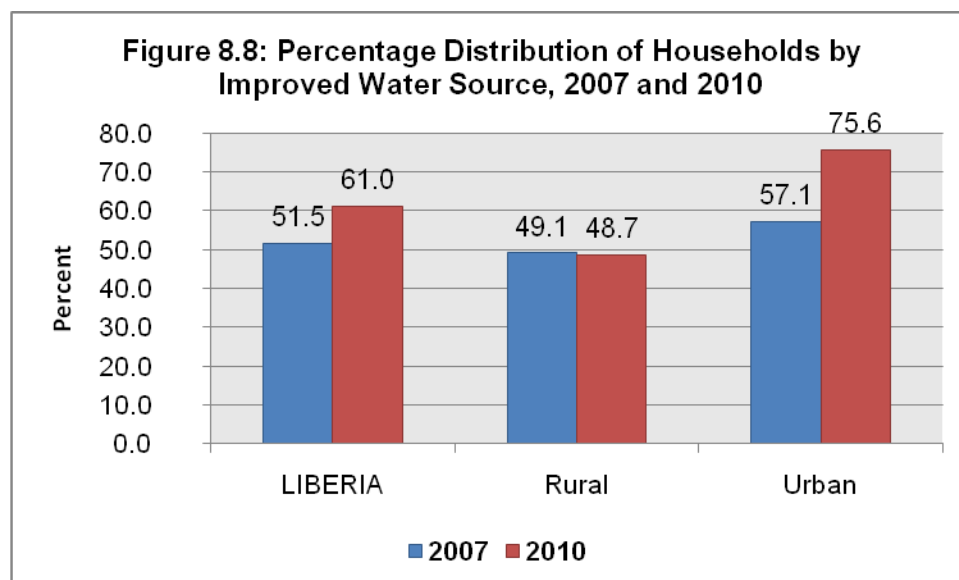
8.4.4 Trends in Improved Sanitation

Flush toilet (sewer/septic tank), Ventilated covered pit latrine (VIP) and covered latrine were all considered as improved sanitation. Nationally, the proportion of households using improved sanitation climbed from 39 percent to 50 percent from 2007 to 2010. Households' usage of safe sanitation in urban areas was higher than both the national and rural proportions; with obvious rise in the usage of safe sanitation from 60 to 64 percent from 2007 to 2010 in urban areas. Like urban areas, rural households displayed some increases in the rates of households using improving sanitation, that is from 30 to 39 percent between 2007 and 2010.

Figure 8.9: Percentage Distribution of Households by Safe Sanitation, Main Type of Toilet, 2007 and 2010
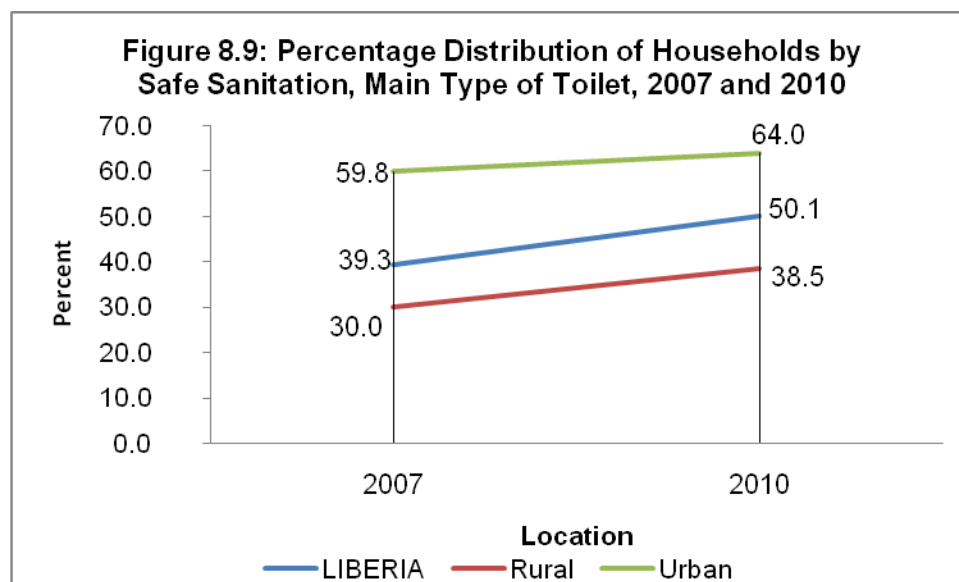
8.4.5 Trends in Main Source of fuel for Lighting

In 2007 a greater percentage of households in Liberia used Kerosene or paraffin (43.4%); whereas in 2010, a larger chunk of the households shifted to battery (32.2%) as the main source of fuel for lighting. Also there were observable declines in the percentage of households using candles and palm oil; while the use of electricity and generator increased over the three years period. Households using electricity and generator for lighting comprised only less than one percent and two percent respectively in 2007. In 2010, however, the use of electricity increased to three percent, while the usage of generator increased to five percent.

As the source of fuel for lighting improves to better and refined mains of fuel generation, the gap between urban and rural tends to widen. The more improved the source of fuel, the less likely that greater number of households in rural areas opted to use it.

Table 8.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Fuel for Lighting, 2007 and 2010						
	2007			2010		
Source of Fuel	LIBERIA	Rural	Urban	LIBERIA	Rural	Urban
Kerosene or Paraffin	43.4	41.5	47.5	25.6	27.0	23.8
Gas	0.3	-	1.0	1.4	0.4	2.6
Electricity	0.6	0.4	1.0	2.8	0.8	5.1
Generator	1.7	0.3	4.7	4.8	1.9	8.1
Battery	0.5	0.6	0.3	32.2	30.6	34.0
Candles	16.9	5.9	41.1	12.1	8.3	16.6
Firewood	2.1	2.5	1.3	2.4	3.3	1.3
Palm oil	33.7	48.0	2.4	17.4	25.8	7.5
Other	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.3	1.6	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

8.5 Trends in Household Perception of Well-being

8.5.1 Perceived Poverty Status from 2007 to 2010

The CWIQ Surveys of 2007 and 2010 also gathered information on the perception of household heads of the poverty status. Comparisons between the two surveys show that most Liberians household believed that there were improvements in their poverty status (see Figure 8.10).

Figure 8.10: Percentage Distribution of Households by Perceived Poverty Status, 2007 and 2010
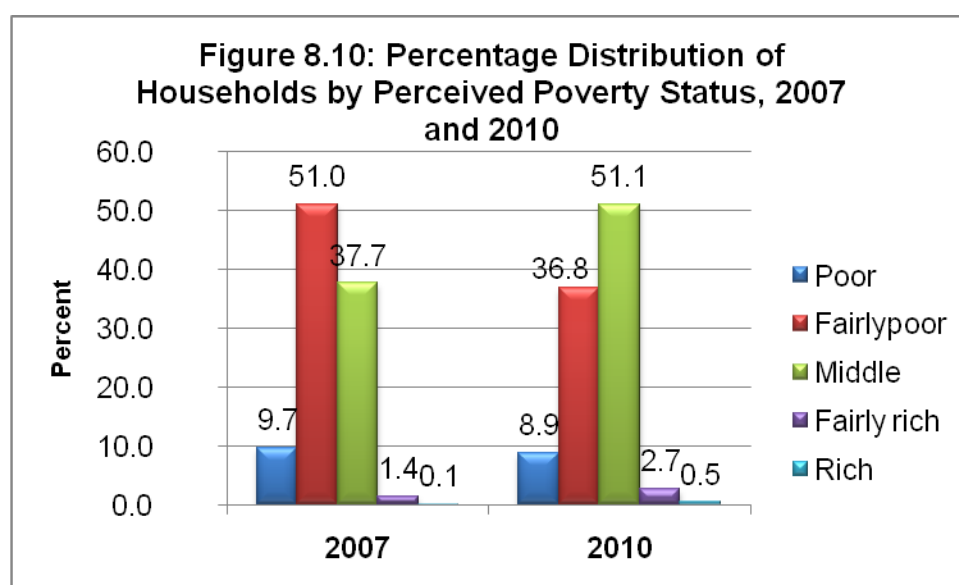
For instance in 2007, about 51 percent of the households in Liberia placed themselves in the fairly poor category; but after three years, the same 51 percent was considered to be in the middle class. Similarly, this upward shift was also noticed for households that were considered either fairly rich or rich from 2007 to 2010.