





UNFPA: Empowered and Fulfilled

	Implementing partner(s)	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
	Location	Grand Gedeh, Maryland, Grand Kru and River Gee counties
	Agreement period	2016-2022
	Budget total	48 400 000 SEK

Overview and objectives

The Empowered and Fulfilled programme aims to improve the wellbeing of Liberian adolescents and youth through their increased access to quality sexuality education, SRH Services and empowerment towards attaining their full potential and contribute to a reduction in high teenage pregnancy rates within four counties in Grand Gedeh, Maryland, Grand Kru and River Gee. The objectives include Increased access and utilization of Sexual reproductive health and family planning services by young people and social, education and health systems delivering evidence based SRH and FP (Family Planning) information and services to young people (10-19 years).

The Liberian youth population, and especially adolescent girls are faced with multiple socio and economic challenges. With an adolescent birth rate of 141 (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19), high teenage pregnancy rate estimated at 31% and early childbirth where 59.1% of adolescent girls are mothers by age 19.



Figure 1: Nurse demonstrating how to insert a contraceptive implant

Activities

The programme aims to conduct advocacy for positively influencing the legal and policy environment for SRHR and programme environment for SRH and family planning, to provide gender sensitive and life skills based comprehensive sexuality education, community behaviour change communication for SRH/FP information and services, building capacity of mainly public institutions and community structures like general community health workers and trained peer educators to deliver SRH in a youth friendly approach and to promote youth participation through adolescent girls leadership and economic empowerment.

The expected outcome is to empower vulnerable adolescents especially girls to make informed decisions regarding their sexuality, access and utilize sexual reproductive health and family planning services; thereby significantly reducing teenage pregnancies and exercising their SRH and rights that would ultimately protect them from sexual abuse, reproductive health challenges and improve their well-being and empowerment to attain their full potential.

As of 2018, the programme has contributed to an increased modern contraceptive utilization rate among adolescents from a baseline of 24% to 66% among the target group. In addition, the cumulative number of adolescents reached with SRHR services for the year 2018 is 92,840 adolescents. For example: 24,840 students in primary and secondary schools benefited from sex-education in school, while 4,951 adolescents went through eleven (11) Women Susu clubs in out-of-school settings in the four targeted counties.