



## LIBERIA SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

- UNDP project helps 24 Ebola survivors and caregivers become entrepreneurs
- UNESCO supports 'Memory of the World Stakeholders' workshop
- UNICEF and partner NGO hand over Education Resource Center
- Federation of UN Staff Associations organises all staff Town Hall meeting

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## Message from Yacoub El Hillo, Assistant Secretary-General/ UN Resident Coordinator



Dear Reader,

This new edition of our UN Focus newsletter focuses on an important initiative launched in June that will strengthen our collective fight against a scourge that continues to affect women, girls and boys in Liberia: that of rape, sexual, gender-based violence, and harmful practices. While progress has been made in many other areas, including women's empowerment and reduction in child deaths, reports are showing us that violence against women and girls especially has increased. This has to stop, and the Government of Liberia, European Union and United Nations and our partners are now stepping up our efforts to end this horrific trend through the launch of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative.

The Initiative will be implemented in five counties across Liberia over the next four years. It will focus on prevention, response and follow up on cases reported to ensure justice prevails through the legal system in Liberia. It builds on the programmes that have been supported by the Government of Sweden and other donors over the past few years. I am urging everyone to take a stand against sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices. Each of us has a role to play in prevention and response, and collectively end the violence.

Similarly, I urge all Liberians to ensure we work together to ensure a stable and democratic Liberia that provides opportunities that enable those who reside within its borders to reach their full potential through expanded social services, education and healthcare, amongst others.

Enjoy your reading.

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## Message from Suleiman Braimoh, Chair of the UN Communications Group and UNICEF Representative



May 2019 marked the tenth year of publication of the **UN Focus** newsletter, which initially began publication as the UN Mission in Liberia's **UNMIL Focus**. The name was changed in May 2009 following the launch of the UN 'At Work Together,' the precursor in Liberia to the launch of the 'Delivering as One' concept in the country. In keeping with the name change, the focus of the newsletter also expanded to cover more of the work carried out by UN Agencies. Since the departure of UNMIL in March 2018, publication has continued under the UN Communications Group.

During the ten years since UN Focus was born, we have covered all aspects of the UN's work in Liberia, from peacekeeping, peacebuilding, child and women's rights, migration and refugees, humanitarian situations and all other initiatives supported by the UN system.

We would like to dedicate this newsletter to all of the UN personnel who have served and continue to serve the UN and people of Liberia over the years.

Happy reading.

## Liberia Spotlight Initiative launched to end violence against women and girls



Cross-section of guests at the launch of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative in Tieni, Grand Cape Mount County. Photo: UNWOMEN Liberia.

On 18 June 2019, Liberia's Vice President, Her Excellency Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor, launched the Liberia Spotlight Initiative, which seeks to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the country. The launch took place in Tiene, Grand Cape Mount County. Close to 600 people took part in the launch event, including Ministers and other government officials, community and religious leaders, representatives of donor countries and the development community, United Nations, and community members.

The Liberia Spotlight Initiative is funded by the European Union.

The USD 15.8 million Initiative will focus on reducing the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices, and increasing women's access to sexual and reproductive health services. It will be implemented in Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Monsterrado and Nimba, the five counties with the highest prevalence of SGBV in Liberia.

Vice President Taylor said Liberia's selection as one of the eight Spotlight countries is an indication that the country has a lot of work to do to eliminate all forms of SGBV against women and girls.

"We hope that at the end, attitudes, customs and laws will be changed for the betterment of our country," she said. "Gender equality is the crux of the matter."

The Vice President stressed that the President, H. E. Dr. George Manneh Weah, will pass an Executive Order banning Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as the Legislature works on passing the Domestic Violence Bill. Gender-based violence against women and girls is particularly high in Liberia. According to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), 2,105 cases of SGBV were reported in 2018, comprising 420 more cases than in 2017.

"Many women and girls still suffer gender-based violence, one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations of our time. Gender based violence must be fought and eliminated," said Mr. Juan Antonio Frutos Goldaratz, Chargé d'Affaires of the European Union Delegation to Liberia.



H.E. Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor Vice President of Liberia speaking during the launch of the Spotlight Initiative in Grand Cape Mount County Photo: UNWOMEN Liberia

The Liberia Spotlight Initiative will be implemented in Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Monsterrado and Nimba counties to tackle the root causes of violence against women and girls and provide quality services for survivors and reparations for victims of violence.

The government of Liberia, United Nations, European Union and partners will work with a cross section of stakeholders including communities, students, teachers, parents, traditional and religious leaders and other institutions such as the Liberia National Police, the Judiciary and the Legislature to prevent and respond to SGBV cases.

“Progress is possible,” said Yacoub El Hillo, the UN Resident Coordinator, “and the Spotlight Initiative creates space for all in society including traditional leaders, who are a powerful segment of Liberian society, to play an active role in ending violence against women and girls.” The Liberia Spotlight Initiative builds on existing programmes”, highlighted El Hillo.

The Liberia Spotlight Initiative will also contribute to the achievement of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).



Traditional Leaders making remarks at the launch of the Spotlight Initiative in Liberia. Photo: UNRCO



Community members take part in a drama performance showcasing action to end violence against women and girls. Photo: RCO.



Cultural Ambassador and Traditional Queen, Julie Endee, at the launch of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative in Tienii, Grand Cape Mount County. Photo: UN Women Liberia



UN Resident Coordinator, Yacoub El Hillo, Vice President, H.E. Jewel Howard Taylor and Minister of Gender, Williametta Saydee Tarr, during the launch of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative. Photo: UN Women Liberia



Lydia Sanagon, an Ebola survivor and beneficiary of the UNDP project standing in front of her used clothes stand.  
Photo: UNDP Liberia.

The Business Opportunities through Support Services (BOSS) Project of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to support rural entrepreneurs, including Ebola survivors and those directly affected by the Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) outbreak from 2014 to 2016, in facing the challenging economic situation in Liberia.

One of those entrepreneurs is 43-year-old Ebola survivor Lydia Sanagon, who received start-up capital in December 2018 to expand her business. Lydia is a mother of nine children, six of which are hers, while the others are children of neighbours who died from EVD.

Lydia was pronounced dead at one point. “I was helpless and pronounced dead by the Ebola Response Team. But my husband (a non-medical person) continued to treat me, taking instructions on the phone from my friends who are nurses until I came back to life,” she recalled.

The UNDP BOSS Team contacted Lydia and carried out her profiling. Three months after the assessment and validation, she qualified and received US\$ 450.00 as start-up capital to support her used clothes business. With this amount Lydia quickly increased the size of her business, from initially purchasing and selling one or two bags of used clothes, to four bags per purchase cycle. The additional goods expanded the scope of her business. She now takes her clothes for special market-days, including to some border towns, as well as giving some of the clothes to other young people to sell and pay her the money thereafter.

She says this mode of business has allowed her to create jobs for over five persons. More importantly, she says she is able to send all nine children to school.

The BOSS project funds come from the UNDP Ebola Economic Recovery Fund, intended to identify special cases to support. The project blends social and start-up funds with business development support training, coaching and mentoring.

“BOSS project aims at providing socio-economic empowerment of rural enterprises that face multiple constraints through decentralization,” says Marcus Zarway, UNDP-BOSS National Project Manager.

BOSS has supported 24 females (aged 26-62) who are Ebola survivors and care givers, like Lydia. Some 153 people, with 2-11 persons per household, indirectly benefit from the support from UNDP. The UNDP project is implemented in partnership with the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Commerce. It was established to enhance decentralization and support micro, small and medium enterprises policy implementation in Liberia through the establishment of Business Support Service Centres at the sub-national County level. It also strengthens the capacities of youth, women and agri-producing enterprises.

The project is key to the implementation of the small business empowerment act and the micro Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) development in Liberia.

## UNICEF and partner, Kid's Education Engagement Project (KEEP), handover Education Resource Center in Cestos City



(L-R) Fully equipped Education Resource Center building and modern tailoring classroom handed over to the County Administration in Cestos City, River Cess County, by UNICEF and its partner NGO, KEEP. Photo: UNICEF Liberia.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its implementing partner NGO, Kid's Education Engagement Project (KEEP), handed over a fully-equipped Education Resource Center to the County Administration in Cestos City in River Cess County in May 2019. River Cess County has some of the lowest education, health and other social development indicators.

The handover ceremony took place on 1 May 2019, when the Superintendent of Cestos City, and other members of the community took charge of the Center. Superintendent Honorable J. Bismarck Karbiah, pledged to ensure that the Education Resource Center is used for its intended purpose, and benefits people from the community.

The six-room Education Resource Center is equipped with the county's first library, 21 computers for training on basic computer skills, and provides facilities for sewing, soap making, baking and other classes for children, adolescents, youth and community members. The Education Resource Center was constructed and equipped using funding from the Government of India under its south-south cooperation initiative.

Children, adolescents, youth and community members have already benefitted from training in various skills. Fifty students have been trained in basic computer skills, 199 girls and women (more than the targeted number) have benefitted from skills training. Start-up packs and funding have been provided to those who completed the training. Trainees included students from the school in the city, a principal, single mothers, and community members who are keen on learning new skills and improving their livelihoods and the situation for

themselves and their families.

"I now make soap and sell it in the market, making a bit more money to help buy food, or send my children to school," says Musu Reeves, one of the beneficiaries of the skills training class. "I have told my friends about the trainings and hope they can enroll in the classes and benefit from this wonderful opportunity."

The handover of the resource center was attended by the County Superintendent, the former Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations Ambassador Lewis Brown, County and District Education Officers, senior citizens, KEEP and UNICEF staff.

"At UNICEF, our focus is on empowering children and their families to ensure children can learn, have the right nutrition, and are able to grow and thrive," says Suleiman Braimoh, UNICEF Representative in Liberia. "This project brings all these aspects together. It empowers children and it helps families to improve the situation for themselves, using newly acquired skills", highlighted the UNICEF Representative in Liberia.



Library of the Education Resource Center in Cestos, River Cess County. Photo: UNICEF Liberia.

## Liberia launches assessment on progress and challenges related to school feeding programme



Students enjoy locally produced nutritious school meals. Photo: WFP Liberia.

School feeding remains a vital programme in Liberia, especially for vulnerable and rural communities. For the first time, the Government of Liberia and its school feeding partners undertook an assessment of school feeding under the System Approach to Better Education Results (SABER).

Supported by the World Food Programme (WFP), the Government of Liberia through the line Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health and other school feeding partners, organized a two-day workshop to complete the Liberia SABER assessment exercise. The assessment exercise considered five globally agreed policy goals for sustainable school feeding, which include:

1. Policy Frameworks
2. Financial Capacity
3. Institutional Capacity and Coordination
4. Design and Implementation
5. Community Roles



Participants from government and partner institutions at the SABER-SF assessment. Photo: WFP Liberia.

The System Approach to Better Education Results School Feeding (SABER-SF) is part of an exercise launched by the World Bank's Education Global Practice in 2011 to benchmark various education domains. Since 2013, the exercise has become a corporate requirement for WFP country offices implementing school feeding programmes.

Across the country, school feeding is currently implemented in 14 of Liberia's 15 counties by partners including WFP, Mary's Meals, Save the Children and ZOA. However, only about 18 percent of the nearly 1.5 million children enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools eat at school.



Students at a school where the WFP and government school-feeding programme is implemented. Photo: WFP Liberia



*UN Resident Coordinator, Yacoub El Hillo and Heads of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes at the Town Hall Meeting. Photo: FAO Liberia.*

On 29 May 2019, the Federation of United Nations Staff Associations in Liberia (FUNSAL), in collaboration with the UN Communications Group, organized the first ever Town Hall meeting for all UN staff in Liberia.

The meeting was held at the Monrovia City Hall and brought together staff from 21 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. The session was livestreamed for UN colleagues in the field to have an opportunity to participate, meet Heads of Agencies and raise their concerns.

The UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Yacoub El Hillo highlighted the meeting as an opportunity for colleagues to know each other, interact and bring issues of concern to the attention of senior management. "I encourage you all to make this interaction candid and meaningful, especially in strengthening how we work together as One UN in Liberia", Mr. El Hillo stressed.

FUNSAL President, Kaman Weah, outlined the role of the organization, which centers around ensuring staff welfare. He also noted that the association has an interim leadership and manages projects that benefit staff, such as managing a fully-equipped gym.

Eighteen Heads of Agencies and the UN Resident Coordinator gave a brief introduction about themselves and their agency mandate.

During the question and answer session, concerns raised by colleague included: staff welfare, One UN House safety, pension and retirement benefits. Concerns that couldn't be addressed during the session will be followed up by the Operations Management Team (OMT) and other relevant working groups.

A staff get-together was organized after the Town Hall meeting.



*A UN staff members speaks during the question and answer session at the Town Hall meeting. Photo: FAO Liberia.*



*A group of migrants who returned from Mali and decided to acquire computer education at the Africa International Institute of Science and Technology (AIICS), pose for a photograph at their graduation.*

*Princess Kou Gbatu (the only Female in the photo) said “ we appreciate IOM for the opportunity given us to acquire computer knowledge and prepare us for the job market”.*

*Photo: IOM Liberia*

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to process and receive Liberian migrants returning from African and European Countries. IOM works in close collaboration with the Government of Liberia through the Liberia Refugee Repatriation Reintegration and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS). Over 1800 Liberian migrants have returned with support from IOM between 2016 and end May 2019.

In the absence of a Liberian embassy or consular mission, IOM supported a consular visit to Niger in 2018 and Mali in 2019 to validate and issue

Emergency Travel Certificates to over 500 Liberian migrants.

The repatriation process for Liberian migrants in Niger is also conducted through Skype interviews by the LIS at the IOM Liberia office. Migrants are then validated and issued with Emergency Travel Certificates, which are sent through courier services to Niger for the repatriation of migrants.

Upon their return to Liberia, IOM reintegrates some of the Liberian migrants, including providing support to carry out income generating activities, education, and medical support. Some examples are given on this page.



*IOM and Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) conducting an interview of migrants in Agadez, Niger. They were interviewed and issued Emergency Travel Documents.*

*Photo: IOM Liberia*



*After returning from Niger with her child, this Liberian migrant decided to set up a provision business. IOM supported her initiative with business materials.*

*Photo: IOM Liberia*



Community Animal Health Workers who took part in a training programme organised by FAO and the University of Liberia. Photo: FAO.

Twenty-eight Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been trained and certified in animal health care services with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations' - Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD) Programme, part of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS). The training was conducted in partnership with the University of Liberia's College of Agriculture and Forestry.

Dr. Jonathan Wesley Roberts, FAO's Officer-in-Charge, said that the FAO-ECTAD Programme aims to support the government of Liberia to develop animal health infrastructure and human capacity for effective control and management of zoonotic non-zoonotic diseases.

"The training is part of the short-term support to elevate human resources capacity in Liberia's animal health sector. It also responds to immensely needed services by the farmers," Dr. Roberts noted.

Livestock and Veterinary Services in Liberia are severely constrained due to lack of qualified trained animal health personnel, both at central and county level, and the training was intended to fill that gap.

The 28 trained CAHWs were selected by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) from nine counties.

The three-week training addressed basic principles of animal health and production, including the recognition of priority zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases monitored by the Animal Diseases Surveillance and Response System. Participants also learned about reporting suspected diseases to County Livestock Officers or Central Epi-Unit as appropriate; diseases outbreak investigation and response; vaccination, and disease prevention and simple treatment.

Speaking on behalf of the MoA, Halala Willie Kokulo, Director of Land and Water Resource, lauded the continued efforts of FAO in supporting the animal health service delivery system. Director Kokulo also expressed gratitude for USAID's support to the programme.



FAO-ECTAD Country Team Leader presenting a certificate to one of the Community Animal Health Workers during the closing ceremony. Photo: FAO Liberia.

## Liberia holds first film festival focusing on stories of women



Some of the trained female filmmakers share their experiences during the Reel Peace Film Festival held in the Monrovia City Corporation Theatre. Photo: RCO.

The Reel Peace Film festival, which focuses on stories of women as told by women, has been held in Monrovia. The two-day festival, a first of its kind, kicked off on 5 June at the Monrovia City Corporation Theatre with a screening of five films on the issues of maternal health, drug abuse, disability and women in the work place.

“We thank the film makers for working very quietly for the last year in all fifteen counties to have these conversations with people in the communities, and highlight those real issues that women face on a day to day basis,” said Yacoub El Hillo, UN Resident Coordinator.

The festival is a product of a fifteen-month film fellowship working with women selected from all

counties. A total of 45 women participated in the fellowship and spent the past year researching grassroots stories in their counties, which were then made into films. The ‘film fellows’ were paired with expert filmmakers to learn essential aspects of filming.

“We walked for hours looking for some of these stories, trying to convince the women in the communities to share their experiences on camera and highlight issues they faced,” said one of the film makers from Grand Gedeh County.

The Reel Peace Film Festival was funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF). It was implemented by Accountability Lab Liberia in collaboration with Bushwick Film Festival.

“Using film as medium is a great way to tell women’s stories, and I am especially delighted to see that this initiative is supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund which I was a part of starting many years ago,” said H. E. David Belgrave, the United Kingdom Ambassador to Liberia.

The festival included panel discussions focusing on possible solutions to the issues highlighted in the movies. Speaking in one of the panels, UN Women’s Deputy Representative, Sangeeta Thapa, highlighted the importance of addressing domestic violence in communities and ensuring that women have equal access to opportunities that improve their lives.

The films will also be screened in various communities across Liberia and will be featured at the European Union Film Festival later in the year.



Some of the trained female filmmakers share their experiences during the Reel Peace Film Festival. Photo: RCO



Yacoub El Hillo, UN Resident Coordinator speaks during the Reel Peace Film Festival. Photo: RCO.



Participants and Facilitator of the National Memory of the World Capacity Development of Stakeholders workshop.  
Photo: UNESCO Liberia

On 18 - 19 June 2019, the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MICAT), in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), hosted a two-day 'National Memory of the World and Capacity Development of Stakeholders' workshop in Monrovia. The session had two objectives:

- To increase awareness on the importance of preserving documentary heritage
- To form a National Memory Committee in Liberia.

In 1992, UNESCO established the Memory of the World Programme Initiative in order to raise awareness of the parlous state of preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage in various parts of the world. Several Members States contribute to this programme initiative through their National Memory Committees, which then form the International Memory of the World Committee.

The Officer-In-Charge of UNESCO in Liberia, Stevenson Seidi, stressed that the establishment of a National Memory of the World Committee in Liberia is pertinent to the development of the post-conflict country.

Seidi lauded the partnership with MICAT and urged participants to take advantage of the National Memory of the World and Capacity Development for their professional growth.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Lance K. Gbaganyon, Deputy Minister for Culture and Tourism at MICAT, thanked UNESCO for its continuous support to the

Ministry. Mr. Gbaganyon promised full commitment of the Government of Liberia for the establishment of the National Memory Committee in the country.

The workshop was facilitated by Papa Diop, international consultant and former Director of National Archives in Senegal.

The members of the National Memory Committee were selected from amongst the participants at the workshop. Next steps include convening a National Committee meeting to carry out the objectives established in the Memory of the World Programme Initiative and selecting two or three persons to form part of the international body.

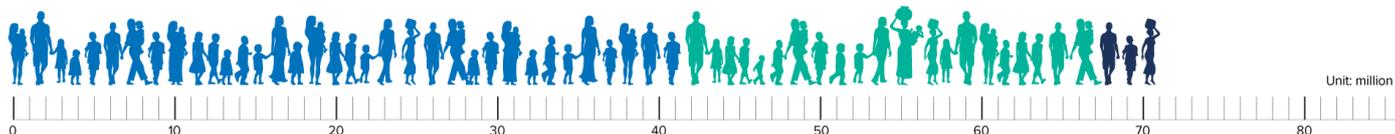
The International Memory Committee facilitates access to heritage preservation documentation without discrimination. The international body also campaigns to raise awareness regarding the documentary heritage, while alerting governments, the general public and businesses to raise funds for sustaining the documentaries worldwide.



Memory of  
the World

<https://en.unesco.org/programme/mow>

**70.8 million** forcibly displaced people worldwide



Internally Displaced People  
**41.3 million**

Refugees  
**25.9 million**

Asylum-seekers  
**3.5 million**

20.4 million under UNHCR's mandate  
5.5 million Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate

*UNHCR 2018 Global Trends in force displacement.*

As global displacement hits record figures, World Refugee Day (WRD) was marked across the world. On 20 June 2019, WRD, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recognizes the courage of refugees and the generosity shown by their host communities, who continue to welcome those who have been forced to flee their homes.

An unprecedented 70.8 million people worldwide have been forced to flee. Among them, there are nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. Liberia is currently hosting some 8,804 Ivorian refugees in addition to 77 refugees of other nationalities and 42 asylum seekers.

Following the trend of the last four years in the country, the President of Liberia, H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah issued a Proclamation declaring 20 June as World Refugee Day to be observed as a Working Holiday in Liberia.

The main celebration took place in Monrovia (Montserrado) and simultaneous events were held in PTP Camp (Grand Gedeh), Bahn Refugee Camp (Nimba) and Little Wlebo Refugee Camp (Maryland). Activities included: dance, exhibitions, sports events and walks.

This year, the celebration was linked to the [#stepwithrefugees global challenge](#) and the African Union (AU) theme for year 2019: “Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.” This theme marks the 50th anniversary of the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention and the 10th anniversary of the 2009 Kampala Convention on Internally Displaced Persons.

In Monrovia, the Special Guest Speaker, AU Special Representative to Liberia, H. E. Ambassador Ibrahim M. Kamara stressed the need to find durable solutions for the forcibly displaced and the stateless. The Guest of Honor, UN Resident Coordinator, Yacoub El Hillo, highlighted the peaceful transition in Liberia following the civil war and the role of the Government of Liberia and UN throughout the peacekeeping process.

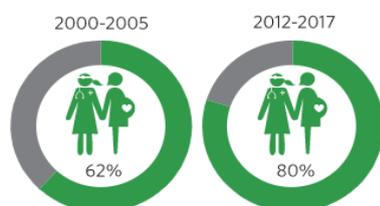
Acting UNHCR Representative, Zulqarnain Hussain Anjum, explained the two available durable solutions for refugees in the country: voluntary repatriation to their country of origin or local integration in Liberia, both of which are supported by UNHCR, the government and partners. Attendees to the celebration in Monrovia included representatives of the Ivorian and Swedish Embassies, UN Agencies such as UN Women, UNDP and UNICEF, as well as Ecobank, who joined others as sponsors of the event.



*Refugee students read a poem in Little Wlebo Extension Elementary School on WRD. The transition from Ivorian curriculum (taught in French) to the Liberia curriculum (taught in English) took place in February 2017. Photo: UNHCR Liberia*

## Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

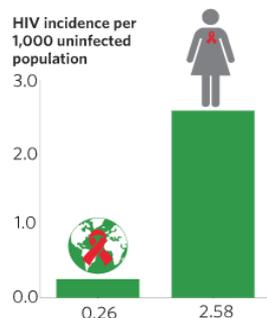
Births attended by skilled health personnel **increased** globally



**Under-five deaths fell** between 2000 and 2016



HIV incidence rate for **women** of reproductive age in **sub-Saharan Africa** is **10 times higher** than the global average



### PROGRESS OF GOAL 3: Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health

- The maternal mortality ratio has declined by 37 per cent since 2000. Nevertheless, in 2015, 303,000 women around the world died due to complications during pregnancy or childbirth. Over the period 2012–2017, almost 80 per cent of live births worldwide occurred with the assistance of skilled health personnel, up from 62 per cent in 2000–2005.
- Globally, from 2000 to 2016, the under-5 mortality rate dropped by 47 per cent, and the neonatal mortality rate fell by 39 per cent. Over the same period, the total number of under-5 deaths dropped from 9.9 million to 5.6 million.
- Since 2000, the maternal mortality ratio in sub-Saharan Africa has been reduced by 35 per cent, and the under-5 mortality rate has dropped by 50 per cent.
- In 2018, the global adolescent birth rate is 44 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19, compared to 56 in 2000. The highest rate (101) is found in sub-Saharan Africa.

### Infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases

Globally, the incidence of HIV declined from 0.40 to 0.26 per 1,000 uninfected people between 2005 and 2016. For women of reproductive age in sub-Saharan Africa, however, the rate is much higher, at 2.58 per 1,000 uninfected people.

## Some key findings of the SDG Report 2018



- Even in the region facing the greatest health challenges, progress has been impressive. Since 2000, the maternal mortality ratio in sub-Saharan Africa has been reduced by 35 per cent, and the under-5 mortality rate has dropped by 50 per cent.
- In 2018, the global adolescent birth rate is 44 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19, compared to 56 in 2000. The highest rate (101) is found in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Globally, the incidence of HIV declined from 0.40 to 0.26 per 1,000 uninfected people between 2005 and 2016. For women of reproductive age in sub-Saharan Africa, however, the rate is much higher, at 2.58 per 1,000 uninfected people.
- In 2016, 216 million cases of malaria were reported versus 210 million cases in 2013. There were 140 new cases of tuberculosis per 100,000 people in 2016 compared to 173 cases per 100,000 in 2000. Hepatitis B prevalence declined among children under 5—from 4.7 per cent in the pre-vaccine era to 1.3 per cent in 2015.
- In 2016, 1.5 billion people were reported to require mass or individual treatment and care for neglected tropical diseases, down from 1.6 billion in 2015 and 2 billion in 2010.



Community members who took part in the launch of the Liber Spotlight Initiative on 18 June hold signs calling for protection of women and girls. Photo: UN WOMEN Liberia.

The United Nations in Liberia is represented by the following Agencies, Funds, and Programmes:

**AFDB, FAO, ILO, IMF, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDSS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNWOMEN, WFP, WHO and World Bank.**

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